

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVII

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ARMOUR AND COMPANY

THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVII

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Number 9

Uruguay as a Cattle and Sheep Country

BY DEMETRIO WINDMULLER

Sarandi Grande, Uruguay

WITH A SURFACE OF 180,000 SQUARE kilometers (70,000 square miles), the geological formation of Uruguay is somewhat puzzling. More or less hilly in all its expanse, it has distinct traces of debris of the glacial period on a rocky underground generally covered with humus of a varying thickness—in some parts alluvial soil, in others heaps of moraine, with an abundant growth of rich herbage. Large granite blocks, lying loosely in the center and south, and heaps of basalt in the northern regions testify their glacial origin.

Mineral substances of the soil are of great variety, and therefore the nutritious value of the grasses which thickly cover the country cannot be underestimated for stock-raising of every class. Good pasturage is provided in all seasons by an enormous variety of *Gramineae*, *Leguminosae*, and various herbs.

The natural water supply is of an extraordinary abundance. From an uncountable number of rivulets and the larger navigable rivers, all with crystal-clear

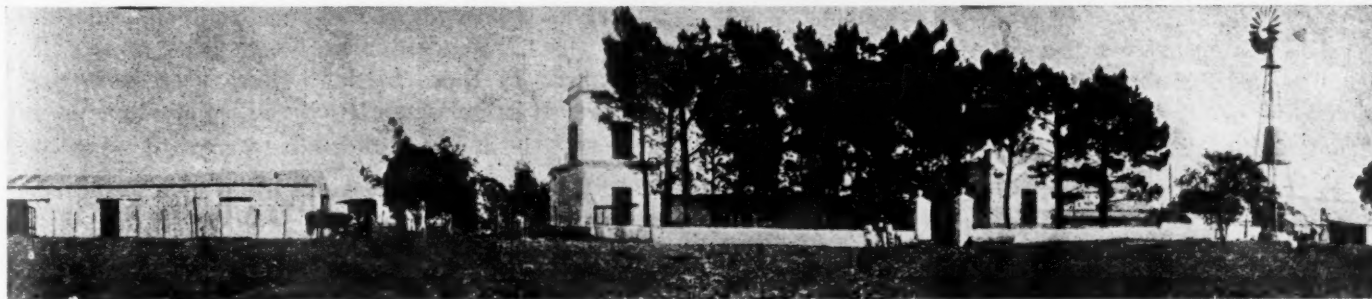
water, that supply is almost overabundant. On the other hand, and notwithstanding this wealth of water, swamps are almost absent. Natural forests border the larger rivers, and along some parts of the Uruguay River these extend themselves inland for a mile or two.

The climate is temperate, free from extremes of heat or cold. Annual rainfall registered during the past fifty years averages about 55 inches. Therefore severe droughts, such as are experienced, for instance, in Australia, are unknown, as well as are dust storms.

Thanks to the appointed conditions of land and climate, it is also a country agreeable for people to live in.

Cattle

Under the above mentioned conditions, it is not to be wondered at that stock raising, especially of cattle and sheep, is the most favored industry of the country. The number of cattle carried during the last three or four decades and since records have



GENERAL VIEW OF A RANCH ESTABLISHMENT IN URUGUAY

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HEREFORD AND DURHAM CALVES NEAR A PROTECTIVE FOREST. NOTE LUXURIANT GRASS

been kept is between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 head.

Up to the early 80's of the last century cattle were of an indifferent quality—so-called *criollos*, descendants of stock imported by the Spaniards. Improvement started then through importation of Shorthorn and Durham bulls by British landowners settled in the western part of the country. A little later some Herefords were imported, and it was soon found that this breed adapted itself better to conditions of pastures and climate.

The improvement of herds extended itself rapidly over the western part, and especially found support by the British *estancieros*, which in a comparatively short time succeeded in building up some excellent herds. The penetration of improvement into the central and eastern parts was rather slow, and even now in that part of the country many herds of indifferent quality are to be found. Thus a variety of cattle are still placed on the market, from the best chillers down to the ordinary canners. The explanation of this lagging behind in quality of so many herds may be found in the comparatively low prices that good chillers fetch on the market. The margin between a good animal and a common one, as regards price, was so narrow that it did not encourage improvement or cover the increase in the cost of production of the former. This anomalism may be attributed to the fact that the export business of beef of chiller quality has been in the hands of two or three packers.

Until lately, steers for export, even chillers, were finished off on natural pastures because of the demand for heavy specimens on behalf of packers. The greatest majority were placed on the market when four years old. Since the demand for lighter animals set in, a change in the system has become predominant. Younger animals ranging from two to two and a half years of age are fattened on artificial pastures, essentially and almost without exception on oat fields. The price of such steers—which on the market is from 4 to 5 cents of Uruguayan currency (about 1½ to 2 cents American) per pound, live

weight—notwithstanding their excellent quality, does not compensate for the increase in cost of production, and the only benefit the producer reaps is the earlier turnover of his capital. American readers will probably be surprised to hear this, and will consider it doubtful that steers with seven, eight, or even ten, crosses of pedigree bulls can be produced at such ridiculously low prices without a loss. The fact is that due to the high quality of land and to the mildness of climate this is still possible—and with a margin of profit.

Sheep

About 25,000,000 sheep have been carried in Uruguay during the last two or three decades, but this number could easily be increased by 5,000,000 or 10,000,000. Up to the end of the 60's of the last century, sheep were of a poor standard, called *criollos*—hardy beasts, but with hair instead of wool. Merino rams were imported at that time for crossing purposes. Ten or fifteen years later, and when the Merino was already predominating, it was found that climatic conditions, somewhat damp, as stated above, were against this breed. Again the British settlers of the western part of the country imported for crossing purposes, in the early 80's, Lincoln, Romney, and Blackfaced rams. The satisfactory results achieved induced people to part with Merinos, and at the beginning of this century some beautiful Lincoln and Romney flocks had been built up, and almost the entire remainder of the flocks was composed of crossbreds of these breeds. Blackfaces were not a success. It seems that the breed which thrives well on very poor lands does not do so on rich pastures.

Conditions are exceptionally suitable for sheep of certain breeds, and farmers have succeeded in producing the dual-purpose animals. The interest of the invested capital in sheep would be almost double that invested in cattle, but, as the richness of soil fosters a somewhat vicious growth of pastures, cattle cannot be dispensed with if feeding grounds for sheep are to be kept suitable. For this reason the capital

investment in both sheep and cattle has to be equal wherever sheep are wished to be kept in good order.

At present, conditions or demands of fashion favor fine wools, and this has induced people to use to some extent hybrid sires, Corriedales, Lincolns, Merinos, etc. The results of the experiment are not yet available, but certain complaints of degeneration, when used for crossing purposes, are already heard of, in accordance with some already at hand from Australia. The outstanding fact is that sheep-breeders expect to follow the market and therefore change their minds according to the demand, instead of carrying on with one breed and improving it as far as possible. Very few have shown steadiness in this respect, but these few are the oldest and most prominent breeders of the country.

General Considerations

Under the described conditions, which allow for rather optimistical prospects, it is to be wondered at that foreign capital has not more freely been invested in Uruguayan land purchases. It is to be more wondered at that those conditions are unknown abroad, at least in a general sense. Misleading information of indifferent origin is probably one of the causes that keeps investors away.

During the evolution of the stock-raising industry many British settlers with a small capital flowed in and bought land. They did well, and the majority soon turned into strong landholders; but they personally managed their affairs. This success attracted investors, and some important companies were formed in England, which purchased land and started stock farming. These companies were not very happy in the selection of their managers, at least in the majority of cases. Men ignorant of ruling conditions of stock raising, and not even knowing the language of the country, were sent out, and failed to promote prosperity. On the other hand, great difficulty was experienced in securing men who had been in the country for some time, because facilities to obtain an independent position were great, and first-class men soon stood on their own feet. The rise in the value of lands—sometimes ten times their original cost—added to that difficulty in securing good managers, and induced many companies to go into liquidation.

Here, as elsewhere, excessive facilities for credit also caused harm. Bankers were too liberal in this respect during the war period and after, and inclined producers to abuse their credits based on fancy values. With the return to normality, land can at present be bought at very reasonable prices—almost ridiculously low. Good-quality land with improvements—wire fences and so on—may be had at about twenty Uruguayan pesos per acre, an equivalent of eight American dollars.

The population of the country consists only of about 1,500,000 people. Therefore there are no unemployed, in the real sense of the word. Life is easy, and many resources are awaiting exploitation.

To finish, and as it illustrates more conclusively the economical strength of the here described industry, I wish to mention that the burden of covering the government liabilities of payment of interests on foreign debts and the financial difficulties caused by devaluation of exchanges to meet those liabilities has been thrown entirely on the shoulders of producers of meat, wool, hides, and skins. Since the scheme was brought into action in 1931, up to the end of 1934 that contribution surpasses *de* 140,000,000 pesos figure, which represents from 40 to 50 per cent of the gross income of the producer. They have carried the burden without protest, and therefore are well worth gratitude of the country as well as of foreign investors.

BEEF GRADING AND STAMPING

IN A TALK ENTITLED "BEEF GRADING AND Stamping," delivered at the annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association at Phoenix on January 9, B. F. McCarthy, senior marketing specialist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, sketched the history of government meat grading, answered criticism against it, and explained the value of the service to the industry. "Started experimentally in a small way by men who saw the desirability of truthful labeling of meats," Mr. McCarthy stated, "the service is now on a self-supporting basis, and it blankets the country. . . .

"The service came into existence in 1927," Mr. McCarthy continued, "as an experiment at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph, and Sioux City. . . . In the beginning it was limited to two grades and two classes—Prime and Choice steer and heifer beef. Later it was extended to include all grades and classes of beef as well as lamb and veal.

"During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1928—the first full year of operation of the service—approximately 33,000,000 pounds of beef were graded and stamped. . . . During the year ended June 30, 1935, nearly 252,000,000 pounds of beef were graded and stamped in twenty large meat-centers in the United States. . . .

"Industry is using the lamb-grading service more every year. In 1931, only 424,000 pounds were graded according to the United States standards. During the year ended June 30, 1935, nearly 14,000,000 pounds were so graded."

The benefits of the grading service, Mr. McCarthy pointed out, are extremely difficult to determine—so many factors affect prices of live stock. "However," he explained, "it is well known that satisfied customers make for better demand and better prices, and we know that grading does cause dealers and consumers to be better satisfied with meat transactions. Perhaps one of the best evidences of the practical utility of grading in beef marketing is the fact that, with few exceptions, those who have employed the service in their operations have continued it, and to greater extent as time goes on. . . .

"There is probably no greater test of its adaptability to meat-buying than its use by hotels, clubs, and restaurants. Million of pounds of graded meat are being sold to thousands

of such institutions throughout the country, and in practically all instances such buyers are well satisfied. . . . They are 'sold' on the assurance of quality that the government stamp carries. . . . I am sure every one of you realizes that the more satisfied users of meat there are, the more meat will be used, and the better the demand and price will be. . . .

"Cost of beef grading," the marketing specialist stated, "varies considerably according to the quantity graded at given points and the time necessary to grade it. The average cost in the large markets in the United States where grading is done at point of origin does not exceed 1/80 of a cent a pound; and in no case does it exceed a very small fraction of a cent a pound. A recent incomplete take-off at New York and Chicago showed that costs of slaughter-house cooler grading by a grader in each of those cities was about 1/100 of one cent a pound. This, translated into added cost of meat to consumers, means that, were all the beef, veal, and lamb in the country graded and stamped under a uniform system and with full co-operation on the part of packers, the total per-capita cost per year need not exceed the cost of a single morning newspaper. . . .

"It has been said," the speaker continued, "that beef grading is very difficult and the government cannot secure men competent to do it. It has been argued that packers, after training men for many years, find that these men make mistakes; . . . that, if government graders were competent men, the packers would employ them at higher wages than the government pays them.

"Beef grading is difficult," it was admitted. "Men must have had at least six years of responsible experience in buying or selling meats, or in some similar capacity, before they become eligible to examination for the position of government meat-grader. The government beef-graders are men who have learned how to grade beef by developing skill in commercial life and then by training and supervision received after entering the government service. . . . The work is not easy or the hours short, but loyalty is developed in government men to such an extent that industry does not find it easy to dislodge them. . . . The average results of government graders," the speaker added, "stand up well when compared with similar work done by graders in industry; they do not suffer by comparison. . . .

"It is sometimes argued," Mr. McCarthy went on, "that, were meats of the Medium grade or below identified with the government stamp, consumers would not buy them. In a number of instances applicants are requesting that Medium beef be stamped and are apparently finding that the stamp helps the sale of the beef rather than hurts it. To a limited extent beef of the Cutter grade is being stamped on request.

"The name Common (the name of the fifth grade from the top), while perhaps fairly well describing the quality, might conceivably hurt the sale of such beef if stamped on it, so serious consideration is being given at the present time to substituting some other name for it, as, perhaps, 'Plain.'

"It has been said that between 60 and 75 per cent of all beef, including cows, grades as Medium or below, and that government grading of these qualities would be injurious to the industry. This is by no means supported by experience. . . . Even if we were to accept as a fact the statement that 40 per cent or less of all beef would receive direct benefit from the government stamp, such recognition for that 40 per cent, or whatever the quantity might be, would probably be reflected in better demand and consequently higher relative prices. . . .

As to producers being "better off when cow-beef is selling at relatively high prices," the speaker said: "The argument is to the effect that when low-quality beef, including cow-beef, sells high it pulls the price of all beef up, while beef of poorer

quality, selling at a low price, pulls all the price-levels down. . . . The argument ignores the economic fact that, with total supply and demand stable, a buying trend toward any part of that supply is associated with price appreciation for the kind in demand, and such appreciation is usually greater than any decline affecting the neglected portion. . . .

"The automobile manufacturers," the speaker continued, "makes his car efficient and beautiful and plays up its high qualities, but seldom claims that it is equal to better cars. Used cars have to be sold, but they are not featured as equal to new models. There is a market for used cars, and generally speaking, a pretty good one. Were dealers in used cars to represent them as equal to the new models, we should think the practice bad from every angle; and yet that is practically what is done every day with respect to meat. . . . When consumers buy low-quality beef at a low price, but advertised as the best, it is bad enough; but when low-quality beef is represented to be of high quality and is sold for a high price, it is nothing less than destructive to the industry; for this tends to make the housewives think that all beef is the same, and they then become bargain-hunters or seek substitutes.

"As long as I can go into dozens of meat markets in any large city and ask for a strictly Choice steer or heifer T-bone or porterhouse steak and have offered to me whatever grade or class the retailer happens to have in stock; as long as at most displays, where various grades of beef are shown, hundreds of housewives tell me they want the higher grades, and state they are willing to pay a fair price for such beef but cannot get it; as long as large and small retail meat distributors set the quality fashion according to the grades they think they can get the most profit from, disregarding the real demands of their customers; as long as organized retailers admit that these things exist; then," the speaker emphasized, "just so long will beef-producers fail to have the best market for their product, and breeding and feeding operations will suffer."

Mr. McCarthy concluded: "The combination of unvarying national standards for classes and grades of meats, identified by simple, easily understood, and correctly applied names, offers a solution, but the application of the plan should have broad active support on the part of all interests. The government-grading plan has proved its adaptability. It has stood the acid test of practicability for over seven years and has been used more and more with each succeeding year; but regardless of its success, it has hardly more than demonstrated its possibilities, taking the country as a whole."

PUBLIC PASTURE RIGHTS

REFERRING TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1920 AND 1934, when "the cowman got the cost of production two years out of fourteen years, and twelve years of that period he got the insurance policy out of the safe and borrowed money on it and took the wife's savings and the kids' banks," calling attention to the rise in prices "due largely to drought and the largesse of a government that picked the surplus up and brought the curve around in one year which ordinarily would have taken three or four years," and pointing out the possibility of damaging forces again backing the industry against the wall, F. R. Carpenter, director of grazing, Washington, D. C., in a talk given on January 8 before the convention of the American National Live Stock Association urged stockmen to put before them an objective and build toward that objective.

Mr. Carpenter described conditions in the West, where "the vast majority of ranches embraced in the ten states, . . . taking up all the states of Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, and parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho,

Oregon, and California," can employ no alternative to the raising of live stock; and drew a contrast to this by picturing the fertile valleys of the South and East, where many crops could be grown. "You have been trying to use the agricultural relief method, when it is not applicable to your industry," Mr. Carpenter said, adding that "we must see to it that we have ranch set-ups for live stock so that the range can be properly utilized, and by that I mean forest rights, as well as Taylor grazing rights. . . . No longer can this problem be left to other people for solution. . . . It is up to the fellows out here to decide whether we are to continue raising cattle, or whether twenty-five years from now we shall be making a living by selling picture postal cards to Eastern dudes."

The old idea of the federal government, Mr. Carpenter continued, was "that the West could be settled in 320's and 640's," but now we have the Taylor Grazing Act—a law that should have been enacted years ago. "It is claimed that it will not work," Mr. Carpenter said; but, he added, "how many of you in this room could go a thousand miles from your home range and know how to ranch without two or three years of experimentation? That is why the administration of this act is in the hands of local people as far as it is possible to keep it there. . . . It (the Taylor act) wants you to set your own districts, organize them with local committees to supervise, and it will settle the complaints that you cannot settle yourselves." The speaker explained "that out of about 14,900 cases of grazing rights considered so far, just 150 have been passed on to the director to settle, and only thirty-six have been appealed from his decision to the Secretary of the Interior."

With thirty-seven people on the payroll, including stenographers, clerks, and other office help, and eighteen fieldmen, the director of grazing has performed the work already done under the act. "What did it?" queried the speaker. "The 509 district advisers were elected by the cattlemen and sheepmen . . . who sat for days and nights and weeks and sweated over applications, and made mistakes, and later righted them. But the act will go on and be a success. After all, grazing is a vital problem of all cattlemen. Here is a chance to visualize the objective and move toward it, although it may take years to work out everything in the change."

The director of grazing expressed the belief that "protection of the ranges to the fullest extent . . . is the only method that will stabilize ranch values." He did not believe "that any living man should have the right to sell off necessary resources and leave land stripped. We have got to preserve our land for other generations yet to come. When we come to a discussion of the protection of this land, we should consider ourselves as only life tenants; we want to take care of it. Why should any man here be allowed to strip it bare, without regard to the rights of those who are to come after us?"

In the precincts organized under the act, Mr. Carpenter asserted, neither the little fellow nor the big man dominated. The average stockman was selected, and the committees, he believed, were representative. Improvement would come with time, and some of the land would have to be rearranged. He called attention to the help that the CCC could render in such matters as development of water, building of fences, and exterminating rodents. "In leaving these matters largely to the local people, the people in Washington will be limited largely to recommendations," Mr. Carpenter stated, adding that "the final authority should be, I believe, in the stockmen themselves."

Mr. Carpenter stated in conclusion that "the stockmen are giving examples to their words and their actions in building up our ranges. It is up to them to make a real demonstration of their ability to handle the situation, and I have confidence they will do it."

CHIEF FORESTER'S ADDRESS AT PHOENIX

THE FOREST SERVICE PLAYS A VITAL PART IN the whole range problem of the West. We have under our jurisdiction approximately 180,000,000 acres of land. . . . It extends from Alaska to Puerto Rico." With these remarks, F. A. Silcox, chief forester, Washington, D. C., prefaced an address—"The Mutuality of Interest Between the Forest Service and Stockmen"—delivered before fifteen hundred stockmen gathered at the Phoenix convention of the American National Live Stock Association on January 8.

"Range control on the national forests started thirty years ago," Mr. Silcox said, and "bitter feelings existed at that time as to any type of control on the ranges, which were handled up to that time in the form of agreements." Reviewing the history of forest regulation in the West, the speaker touched upon the competitive bidding method of handling ranges, pointing to the defects of this system; referred to the timbered areas in which million of acres once containing billions of feet of yellow pine were denuded; called attention to the constant objective of the Forest Service to decentralize its organization so that it would be responsive to local conditions; and gave assurance that opportunity for complaint would always be open to those who felt that the service might be drifting into a bureaucratic attitude.

Mr. Silcox believed that the stockmen "must have assurance in the form of term permits on the western ranges in order to guarantee credit facilities to do business and to arrange business from year to year." With regard to reductions for protection, he thought that the Forest Service and stockmen could "come to an agreement on that without a great deal of difficulty."

In his travels throughout the western country, Mr. Silcox had found a distinct opposition among stockmen to reductions for distribution. "I think the position taken by stockmen in regard to reductions for distribution is not without a considerable amount of merit," Mr. Silcox said. "The problem of the Forest Service is found where a distinct change has come about, and I use an illustration of the Snake River Valley, in Idaho, where they had a different sort of set-up which has been developing in the valley—irrigation. Last year a petition was signed by some thousand people in that valley and sent to representatives, senators, and the Forest Service. It asked why those in the valley along the river could not have access to the ranges and the national forests. Now, of course, after a discussion of that situation with the banks, the stock associations, and the representatives from Idaho in Congress, it may be that the wise decision in that particular case would be to prevent any of those people on the lower side, who raise the Idaho big potatoes, and the people who go in there to farm, from using those ranges. They simply use live stock as a pick-up; their main occupation is farming—that is the oldest form of economic development in that region—and they should be prevented from going into the stock business up to the national ranges where summer range is so limited. There is not enough summer range in this western country, we know, to balance our winter ranges. . . .

"From the standpoint of the analysis of bank records," the chief forester continued, "it is a serious question whether those small farmers, who with their sheep and cattle as a pick-up around their farms are making a profit on that basis in farming, are not better off, and the community is not better off, as well as the whole valley up there, if they are kept out and prevented from going into the general stock business. They claim that the Forest Service should not assume the determination that they have no right to go on the ranges, which are public property, and that it is not our

business to say whether they can make good or not. It raises a question that is very difficult to handle, and one which we have to contend with if we are to arrive at some degree of stabilization. . . .

"No settlement of this matter of distribution . . . can be made if those men are permitted to come in and locate on the ranges and then use them as a means for holding up the other fellow who has made improvements and investments, not only in the range, but in the breeding of cattle. The Forest Service does not want to be a party to that sort of thing.

"On the other hand," the speaker urged, "I want to see if I cannot get your sympathetic consideration of this problem. We have to consider some of these small operators in giving them access to the range and by what methods we shall do it. . . ."

Competitive bidding, Mr. Silcox said, would afford an escape of the matter of trying to make a balance between the various users of the ranges. "That would certainly be pursuing the course of least resistance," he continued, "and our department would then avoid a great deal of the difficulty involved in these controversies. I think that the method that we are now following is reasonably sound, and that a competitive bidding plan would give rise in a more accentuated degree to the very thing I am talking about now. I want to avoid having a set-up where you have a continuous range problem. As I view the competitive bid idea, it puts you in jeopardy every five or ten years, or at whatever time you fix the period of the competitive bid. We have attempted to escape that system, and we are willing to face these problems in trying to come to some stability. . . ."

"The co-ordination of the national forest ranges with the public-land ranges," Mr. Silcox said, "is very vital in the western country. One of the reasons why we have held off our term permits was to try to leave the situation open, at least for the time being, so that we could work out an adjustment co-operatively with the Taylor Grazing Act. . . . I can state that, so far as the Forest Service is concerned, it is purely temporary and we intend to go back to term permits in some form or other." Mr. Silcox added that full consideration would be given to the request of the National Wool Growers' Association and the American National Live Stock Association for a meeting in Washington for the purpose of laying down a policy, and that he would be prepared a short time after such a conference to outline a plan concerning term permits, reductions, and distribution.

Regarding the question of co-operation of the Forest Service with the Farm Credit Administration, Mr. Silcox said: "We know very definitely that the national forest ranges when protected by a term permit are a definite asset at the bank, irrespective of the fact that the land is publicly owned. It is considered an ordinary business transaction to take the ranges embraced in a term permit into consideration in all your credit relations. I want to say definitely that laying out a sound, long-time credit basis with low rates of interest is a facilitating instrument in creating stability in the live-stock industry of the West."

Mr. Silcox concluded his remarks with the following observations: "I am convinced that it is time for us as Americans at least to look at the situation and give thought to the treatment of our lands and forests and so to utilize them on what I call a sustained annual-yield basis that we shall avoid, to some extent, these booms and 'busts.' Whether we can do it or not, or whether we shall take the fatalistic attitude that they will happen anyway, no matter what we can do—well, I do not belong to that particular school. I believe that we have enough intelligence, courage, and ability in

this country, enough associations—hundreds of them all over the United States similar to your own—to come to grips with some of these problems, and thus, all working together, we can lay the foundation for a better use of a great deal of our resources. If we study the situation of dust storms and destruction of timber with the intent of remedying it, make ourselves more conscious of the enormous amount of resources that America secured as her heritage, and use those resources somewhat in the attitude of the German—that the use of land is, to some extent, a trusteeship, and a thing to be passed on to his children—then I feel that we can continue to use the ranges with a maximum amount of benefit and with the idea of improving our condition out here in the West."

THE FUTURE OF HIGHWAY USE

PREDICTING THAT THE NEAR FUTURE WILL SEE consolidations of truck lines perfected and that the consolidations so formed will then be acquired by the railroads, Roy F. Britton, director of the National Highway Users' Conference, discussed effect of motor-transport regulation upon shipping activities in an address, entitled "The Future of Highway Use," delivered January 8 before the convention of the American National Live Stock Association in Phoenix, Arizona.

"I venture to predict," Mr. Britton declared, "that the truck operators who joined forces with the railroads to secure federal regulation will be amazed by the ferocity and determination with which their allies will turn upon them.

"And the country will wake up to learn that co-ordination of transportation facilities, in many instances, means the concentration of facilities under a single ownership. In that event, let the shipper beware!"

Discussing specifically effects of administration of the federal Motor Carrier Act enacted last year, Mr. Britton showed the extent to which interpretation of the act and methods used in its practical application will be controlling factors.

The act will be "universally applauded and it will be successful," Mr. Britton indicated, "if it stabilizes the operations of for-hire vehicles without trespassing on the rights of privately operated vehicles; if it guarantees the financial responsibility of public carriers; if it assures fair and just rates to shippers and prohibits discrimination; if it brings about uniformity of regulation; and if it encourages the full development of motor transportation in its own right."

To that declaration, Mr. Britton added. "But the 'ifs' are many, and the pitfalls are all too apparent."

Calling for adoption of a realistic attitude toward regulation of highway transportation, Mr. Britton pointed to the difficulty of attaining the ideal of a great co-ordinated transportation system in which each unit dutifully plays its allotted part.

"In such a large country, with more than 3,000,000 miles of highways on which there are many millions of daily unrelated vehicle movements," he said, "it may be difficult, if not impossible, to attain the ideal. It may even be undesirable from the standpoint of service to individual needs.

"John Smith is not likely to worry about co-ordination when he has a load of cattle to haul to market. He may even bring back something for his neighbor—sometimes even for a charge—and thus technically subject himself to the Motor Carrier Act. There are millions of John Smiths in the country. There are so many of them that they cannot and should not be ignored."

Mr. Britton branded as "fantastic, incorrect, and unsupported" the statements that highway transportation is un-

regulated, that motor-vehicle owners as a whole are subsidized, and that the railroads are being denied equality of opportunity. Crediting these statements to those who are unfriendly to, or prejudiced against, highway transportation, Mr. Britton declared: "All the states limit the size and weight of trucks and busses, and these laws are so diverse and so elaborate that it requires a book of 120 pages to cover an analysis of them." He cited other examples to show the extensive scope of existing regulation, leading to the statement that "thanks to its competitors, highway transportation today is overregulated as well as overtaxed."

Discussing subsidies and equality of opportunity as they relate to transportation agencies, Mr. Britton pointed to the fact that the railroads have been generously subsidized by the federal, state, and municipal governments.

"But motor-vehicle owners as a whole," he declared, "do not constitute a private enterprise. They make up a majority of the taxpaying and voting citizens of the nation. They are paying for the construction and maintenance of highways through their registration fees and gasoline taxes. So there is no government grant and there is no private enterprise except the very small group of for-hire public carriers."

"Authorities have frequently found that, for the country as a whole, the commercial vehicles are paying their just share for the highways which they use. They are paying too much in some states and in a few they may not be paying enough, but they are not subsidized. They are paying their way."

"What does 'equality of opportunity' mean? Does it mean that through restrictive legislation 3,000,000 people who own trucks and carry their own goods in them should be placed on a parity with the railroads which are public utilities clothed with a public interest?"

"It must be remembered that 85 per cent of the trucks on the highways today are privately owned and privately operated. They are used by factories, merchants, and farmers in the conduct of industrial, business, and agricultural enterprises. Do the railroads contend that they should have equality of opportunity with these millions of individuals?"

"No agency can justly claim priority of right or a vested interest in the transportation of the country."

SOME LETTERS ABOUT THE SANITARY PACT

THE MATTER OF THE ARGENTINE SANITARY CONVENTION is expected to come before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during the present session of Congress. In the meantime, the case of the live-stock industry against the ratification of the pact is being prepared, and every point concerning the proposed agreement is being probed. Here is a recent exchange of letters between Sumner Wells, Assistant Secretary of State, and F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association:

"DENVER, COLO., December 26, 1935.

"HONORABLE SUMNER WELLES:

"I have before me your letter of November 18, the last paragraph of which reads as follows:

"It may be added that the responsible officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry state that the situation of Patagonia is unique as regards freedom from infection or exposure to foot-and-mouth disease. These officials state that they know of no other country where foot-and-mouth disease exists which has areas so free from exposure to foot-and-mouth disease that fresh and chilled meats could be imported from them without danger of the introduction of the diseases into this country."

"Inasmuch as in letter after letter which has gone out from your department, signed either by Secretary Hull, yourself, or Assistant Secretary Phillips, reference has been made to the responsible officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry

who were urging that Argentine meats can be imported into this country absolutely without danger, I wish you would advise me the names and official positions of the officials who entertain that belief. I should like to publish the information in the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER, because it would seem that the live-stock industry is entitled to know just which of its sanitary officials are willing to take that chance.

"F. E. MOLLIN."

* * *

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE, January 16, 1936.

"MY DEAR MR. MOLLIN:

"The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 26, 1935, in which you state that in letters from this department on the subject of the Argentine sanitary convention reference has been made to the responsible officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry who were urging that Argentine meats can be imported into this country absolutely without danger, I wish you would advise me the names and official positions of the officials who entertain that belief."

"I would suggest that you address any inquiry as to the position of the Department of Agriculture and its members on this subject directly to that department."

"Of course in no reply to your letters on this subject has the department ever made any statement that there were officials, 'who were urging that Argentine meats can be imported into this country absolutely without danger.' The scope and effects of this convention were explained to you in the enclosure to my letter of October 23, 1935, which quotes a statement of the Department of Agriculture to the effect that there is 'nothing in the convention which will materially affect import regulations of the department aside from those based upon Section 306 (a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, relating to fresh and frozen meats, and that, in respect to these, ratification of the convention would merely remove from the prohibition of that section such meats originating in the remote region known as Patagonia which at present is considered to be free from dangerous diseases of live stock.' The possibility of any but negligible imports of meat from Patagonia, which is almost exclusively a sheep-raising territory, was also discussed in the enclosure to my letter above referred to."

"In addition to the material contained in my replies to previous inquiries on this subject, I should like to add that at the present time this country admits mutton and lamb from countries such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; but under Section 306 (a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 this government is obliged to refuse any imports from Argentina, although our competent sanitary authorities admit that in the remote region of Argentine Patagonia there has never been any history of foot-and-mouth disease and that this territory is amply protected from exposure to the disease by deserts, mountains, and the sea."

"It is this discrimination which has caused persistent ill-will and costly retaliation in our relations with Argentina."

"There is no loss of economic protection involved in this convention. The convention does not touch the present tariff of 7 cents a pound on imports of fresh lamb and 5 cents a pound on mutton, or the tariff on wool. The only effect of this convention would be to allow Argentine Patagonia to share with other countries in whatever market exists for foreign lamb and mutton in the United States under present tariff and price conditions."

"As you know, with the development of our sheep-raising industry, American imports of fresh lamb and mutton have been negligible. In 1933 they were valued at \$1,002; \$1,691 in 1934; and for the first eleven months of 1935, at \$4,879."

"SUMNER WELLES,
"Assistant Secretary of State."

* * *

"DENVER, COLO., January 21, 1936.

"HONORABLE SUMNER WELLES:

"Yours of the sixteenth at hand. It seems strange to me that the Department of State would continue to refer in its many communications urging the ratification of the Argentine sanitary pact to the responsible officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry who were favoring such action and then be unwilling to give the names of those officials. This is on a par with a lot of other information which your department has put out in regard to the Argentine pact and which does not bear close inspection. For instance, the remote region known as Patagonia is not so very remote. It can be reached in less than a day's ride from Buenos Aires. There are a lot of cattle in Patagonia, and I have the figures to prove it. Furthermore, according to the records of the Bureau of Animal Industry,

foot-and-mouth disease exists in one of the provinces included as part of the region known as Patagonia. Imports could not properly be admitted from Patagonia, even under the terms of the Argentine sanitary convention, because under article III either contracting party is given the right to reject importations from territories or zones which are not free from contagion or exposure; and, according to the records which I secured from Dr. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, there actually is foot-and-mouth disease in one of the provinces included in the region of Patagonia and certainly there is exposure, because the region of Patagonia joins on the north and east heavily infected provinces. Frankly, I do not believe that any responsible official of the Bureau of Animal Industry who has had any experience with foot-and-mouth disease has voluntarily assisted in the preparation of the Argentine sanitary convention or approves your efforts to break down the present embargo.

"It will be our purpose to develop these facts when hearings are held before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and to call to the attention of some of our friends in the senate your refusal to give us the names of the high-ranking officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry who are represented as urging ratification of the pact.

"F. E. MOLLIN."

NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' PLATFORM

SUMMARIZED BELOW IS THE PLATFORM AND program of the National Wool Growers' Association as set forth in the reports of various committees and adopted by the seventy-first annual convention, held at Salt Lake City, Utah, January 22-24, 1936.

General resolutions:

Condemning policy of certain party leaders in their trade-agreement and reciprocal-tariff policies, and holding that trade agreements should receive approval of Senate;

Opposing ratification of proposed Argentine sanitary convention, and demanding retention of present embargo against importation of live stock or its products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists;

Opposing excise taxes on domestic live stock or products thereof;

Requesting legislation to provide for such labeling of fabrics as will apprise purchasers of wool content; that term "all wool" be affixed only to merchandise containing wool and non-essential fabric; and requesting legislation requiring labeling of wool textiles to show country of origin;

Urging wild-life conference to make provision for such surveys as will properly evaluate wild-life resources and range live-stock industry and show proper place of each;

Favoring continuance of investigation into causes of disease known as "bighead";

Requesting wool-marketing agencies to include in contracts clause calling for payment of 10 cents a bag as subscription to current year's wool-promotion program;

Supporting program of National Live Stock and Meat Board.

Public lands:

Recommending that, until set-up under Taylor Grazing Act can be "unscrambled" and rules understood, there be no increase in acreage or districts; that states so inclined have right to their public lands; that act be made more specific, particularly as to persons entitled to permits and procedure for obtaining them; that law be amended to provide for election of state advisory boards, members to be stockmen with prior right and commensurate and dependent property; that grazing permits be issued on basis of (1) qualified applicants with dependent commensurate property with prior use, (2) qualified applicants with prior use but not adequate dependent commensurate property, and (3) qualified applicants with dependent commensurate property but without prior use.

Forest grazing:

Urging issuance of permits for term of ten years, with minimum provision for reduction for any cause during term.

Marketing:

Opposing interference with free marketing of live stock such as contemplated in Capper bill; recommending continuance of investigation into lamb-marketing abuses; recom-

mending legislation to expedite pending hearings on yardage and selling charges; indorsing National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board; asking that direct shipments and "fats" and feeders be reported separately by market reporting agencies; opposing production control on wool, lambs, or sheep, and objecting to use for sheep grazing of land retired under crop-reduction plan; urging packers and wholesale butchers purchasing at country points for direct shipment to deduct 25 cents a car for support of Meat Board; commending efforts of Senate Wool Investigating Committee; asking that imported woven fabrics, except floor coverings, be stamped to show country of origin; asking legislation to abolish practice of making tag discounts and excessive discounts for black wool packed separately.

Predatory animals:

Urging appropriation of \$1,000,000 a year—authorized in 1931 but not fulfilled—as proper solution to predatory-animal situation; asking that portion of fees collected by Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture in control of lands be used for predatory-animal-control purposes.

ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES FORMED

FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF THE INTERESTS of stockmen of the West was brought about at the meeting of secretaries of state and local associations, held during the course of the Phoenix convention. The score of officers present agreed on the formation of a secretaries' association, to be composed of secretaries of state, regional, and local associations affiliated with the American National Live Stock Association.

The purpose of the new organization is to promote closer co-operation between the various associations, facilitate the exchange of helpful views, and encourage increased interest in problems affecting the live-stock producers of the West.

Mrs. J. M. Keith, secretary of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Phoenix, Arizona, was chosen as president; E. B. Spiller, secretary of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Fort Worth, Texas, vice-president; Mrs. Grace S. Reed, secretary of the Nevada State Cattle Association, Reno, Nevada, secretary; and Miss Bertha Benson, secretary of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, treasurer.

All secretaries of associations affiliated with the American National Live Stock Association are urged to lend their co-operation. Communications should be addressed either to Mrs. Keith or Mrs. Reed at the addresses given above.

Bulgarian Cattle Census

Figures compiled by the Bulgarian statistical bureau show 1,817,430 head of cattle in Bulgaria, including 683,400 oxen, 554,400 cows, 239,300 yearlings, and 275,000 calves. The total figure is almost identical with that of 1926.

THE CALENDAR

February 18-19, 1936—Annual Convention of Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Tucson, Ariz.

February 20-23, 1936—Tucson Live Stock Show, Tucson, Ariz.

February 29-March 8, 1936—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.

March 4-6, 1936—Annual Convention of Kansas Live Stock Association, Topeka, Kan.

March 6-7, 1936—Annual Convention of New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, Silver City, N. M.

March 7-11, 1936—San Angelo Fat Stock Show, San Angelo, Tex.

March 9-12, 1936—Amarillo Fat Stock Show, Amarillo, Tex.

March 10-12, 1936—Annual Convention of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Amarillo, Tex.

March 14-22, 1936—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

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Volume XVII FEBRUARY, 1936 Number 9

EMERGENCY RAILROAD RATES

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE RAILROADS have petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to extend increased rates granted on certain commodities in *Ex Parte 115*, coincident with Railroad Co-ordinator Eastman's order for consolidation of various railroad terminals, ought finally to center attention on one of our most neglected national problems—transportation. The railroads are probably the only industry that met the depression by increasing charges instead of by lowering them, at the same time refusing to take advantage of the substantial economies offered through the route of consolidation, repeatedly urged upon them by Mr. Eastman as a result of his careful study of the situation.

The trouble goes back to the fact that the railroads have never based their freight rates on the cost of the service rendered. Instead, charges have been assessed on as high a plane as the traffic would bear. The advent of truck competition caught them

unawares, and much business was lost before rates were reduced to meet specific competition. Therefore we now witness the anomaly of rates being increased (or increases sought to be maintained under *Ex Parte 115*) on certain non-competitive commodities, while other rates are being reduced to meet competition. As an example, grain dealers in Nebraska are seeking "emergency" lower rates to meet truck competition on corn being moved to Kansas areas where the crop failed last year. Simultaneously the railroads are urging the passage of the Pettengill bill, which would permit them to make very low rates on competitive long-haul traffic.

For the good of the railroads and the country at large it is to be hoped that railroad management will come out of its long sleep, co-operate with Co-ordinator Eastman in effecting economies, and then reflect those savings in lower rates to all the shippers who have stayed with them. No doubt part of the business already lost can be recovered by such a policy. The country is weary of high rates and the stupid management that demands them. The possibilities of success by adopting a progressive policy are shown by the sharp increase in passenger business on western roads. A trial reduction in rates was made permanent because of that result.

We recommend the same treatment in the freight service. Everything else has been tried. Even Wall Street, which dominates railroad management, ought now to be convinced that high rates do not mean big revenues. If the Interstate Commerce Commission has the courage of its convictions, it will follow Mr. Eastman's advice, force the issue, and reduce the costs of operation. It should have been done five years ago; but, better late than never.

CAPPER BILL TACTICS

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE UNITED States Live Stock Association—formed, financed, and controlled by the commission men and stock-yard agencies—has been busy compiling a list of local live-stock associations throughout the West. The purpose of this activity is now revealed, as letters similar to the one quoted below have been sent to all such organizations:

Dear Mr. ———:

President Hildebrand is asking your co-operation in making special contacts on the Capper-Hope-Wearin bills, a brief explanation of which is enclosed.

Members of the association throughout the country are being asked to contact their senators and representatives.

Accordingly, President Hildebrand is asking you, as a member of the association, to write your Congressman———, House Office Building, Washington, D. C., immediately.

Insist that he actively support these important measures and work for their early consideration and passage at this

next session of Congress, which will convene shortly after January 1.

Vested interests are opposing these bills, which lends even greater importance to local contacts such as you will make. Time is short and President Hildebrand is counting on you. Please let us know as quickly as possible what you do, so we may complete our plans.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation, and looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Yours very truly,

GLENN T. STEBBINS, *Executive Secretary*,
UNITED STATES LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION.

The commission men well know that the West, with the sole exception of Kansas, is solidly opposed to the Capper bill. Resolutions have been passed by practically every major live-stock organization in this entire territory condemning the Capper bill and the effort being made by the commission men to force live stock through the central markets.

THE PRODUCER is ready to recognize the right of the commission men to work to their own advantage—as long as they do it in their own name. But when they come out in the fashion indicated above, pretend to be a producer organization, and urge co-operation on the part of real representative organizations formed for a legitimate purpose, they are going a little too far. In the long run, such methods do not pay, and the growing resentment against the attempt is hurting the public markets far more than any Capper bill will ever help them.

SUPREME COURT AND AAA

HISTORY WILL DOUBTLESS RECORD THE fact that when the Supreme Court on January 6 invalidated the processing taxes levied under the Agricultural Adjustment Act, it performed a notable service for American agriculture. Few will deny that in a great emergency the "relief" administered through the AAA was a life-saver to thousands of farmers. But relief is one thing, and a sound permanent plan for agriculture is quite another; the attempt to make one into the other was as unwise as it was ill-fated.

Perhaps few had realized the full implication of the AAA program, with its great and ever growing horde of bureaucrats who were regimenting the farmers and preparing more and more to order their every move and plan. If anyone doubts that this is the case, he has only to read the potato-control act—the logical result of what had gone before—to become convinced.

True, sufficient time had not elapsed definitely to prove the efficacy of the production-control measures involved. The drought of 1934, repeated in 1935 in a more limited area, prevented a fair and full test. Officials of the AAA or of the Department of Agriculture, in talking to producers, credited the sharp

rise in prices of major farm products to control measures, while, in explaining that occurrence to consumers, they were wont to blame the drought.

It had been clearly indicated, however, that crop control by the means then employed could only work in the long run if practically dictatorial powers were given to those in charge. The futility of paying one group of producers for reducing acreage of certain crops in areas best adapted to their production, without the power to prevent increased planting in other less suitable areas, is at once apparent. The resultant uneconomic shifts in production simply added to the confusion and the difficulty of the problem.

This is well illustrated by the wheat situation in Kansas today. Despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of dollars are being paid winter-wheat growers of that great wheat-producing state for reducing acreage, a record amount has been planted and the prospect is good at this writing for the biggest crop ever grown.

Now substitute measures are being rushed through both the House and Senate, in the shape of amendments to the existing Soil Conservation Act. To the extent that it is planned to duplicate the errors of the AAA by unwise restriction of production, it should be corrected; but at least it provides the framework for a sound national policy, and, coupled with better machinery for distribution, ought permanently to remove the farm problem from the political arena.

When the NRA was killed some months ago, the cry was raised that recovery as projected by the New Deal had been dealt a body blow; but recovery has gone forward at a greatly increased tempo as a result of that decision. Similar chagrin was expressed at the AAA decision, especially by those in charge of the adjustment bureau who saw their dream of complete control of agriculture fading, and also by those so-called farm leaders who have spent most of their time in Washington the past three years with their hands out in a "give-me" attitude. But the change will be welcomed by those who look farther ahead, who want to maintain the independence of the industry, the fertility of the soil, adequate production, and, at the same time, their self-respect.

SALT LAKE GRAZING MEETING

IN MID-JANUARY A TWO-DAY GRAZING conference was held at Salt Lake City, attended by official delegates from the thirty-four organized grazing districts in ten western states and by representatives of various live-stock organizations in the same territory, the latter, however, being excluded from participation in the meeting except in some general discussion. It soon became apparent

that the principal purpose of the meeting was to get the local advisory boards to authorize the collection of a monthly fee of 5 cents a head on cattle and 1 cent a head on sheep for the year 1936, although no permits are to be granted and the users are expected to operate again this season under a temporary license.

Accredited delegates were as follows: Arizona, 4; California, 8; Colorado, 20; Idaho, 4; Montana, 16; Nevada, 8; New Mexico, 16; Oregon, 24; Utah, 32; and Wyoming, 4.

Several major questions were propounded to these state delegations, and each acted upon them in caucus. On the question of charges, a great majority brought in reports expressing opposition to any fee until either regular permits were issued or the range was properly allotted. Despite the official nature of these reports, the question was put to the entire group of accredited delegates for vote as they reassembled, and, after considerable maneuvering, they were persuaded to vote just as the representatives of the Department of the Interior desired them to. The most significant part of the proceeding was the statement made to them by Director Carpenter just before the final vote was taken (the result of previous votes not having been announced) that they were voting "not as selfish users of the public domain, but as representatives of the Department of the Interior."

It was intimated in the meeting that the fee might be doubled when final permits were issued. It is well to call attention to the fact that, in the case of cattle, doubling the fee would exceed the average fee paid for grazing on the national forests in the year 1935, and hence it would seem important that this matter be taken into consideration before any change is made from the basis now established.

There was a reconsideration of the order of preferences for permits. Applicants with both dependent commensurate property and prior use were again accorded first preference. Second choice, it was decided, would be accorded those with dependent commensurate property but without prior use, while those with prior use but not adequate commensurate property were rated third. This is reversing the position taken a year ago with regard to the two latter classes.

Many stockmen are not adverse to paying a grazing fee, and will pay as soon as they feel that they are getting something for it. There is considerable doubt, however, as to the legality of a fee charged for a license, because there is no such requirement made in the Taylor Grazing Act. If it is the intent to hold up the issuance of regular permits until the McCarran provision preventing arbitrary cuts in permits can be taken out of the act,

stockmen generally will protest against such handling of the matter. Too much time has already been lost since the passage of the act nearly two years ago. It is high time that there be less maneuvering by department officials in an effort to amend the act and entirely control the set-up, and more actual administration of the job entrusted to them by the law.

CATTLEMEN IN CONGRESS

THE WESTERN LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY has long been fortunate in having either in the House or Senate big men who grew up in the industry, who knew its every turn, and who had the courage of their convictions and the confidence of their colleagues in fighting the battles of the stockman.

For many years the late Senator John B. Kendrick, of Wyoming, beloved by all who knew him, was the stockman's friend and ally in the Senate. It is fitting that he should be followed by Robert D. Carey, also of Wyoming, a pioneer cattleman, and fast succeeding to the confidence and esteem won by the man who came up the trail from Texas to become Wyoming's leading citizen.

In the House there are today two men winning their spurs at an earlier age—Richard M. Kleberg, of Texas, and Harry B. Coffee, of Nebraska—who are in the thick of every battle for the cowman. Both spring from pioneer cattle families, both are active ranchers, and both are on the House Committee on Agriculture, where their knowledge of the industry is put to the best use.

The AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER takes this opportunity of expressing the thanks of a grateful industry to these men and others who serve with them in behalf of a great industry.

Dr. A. J. Pistor

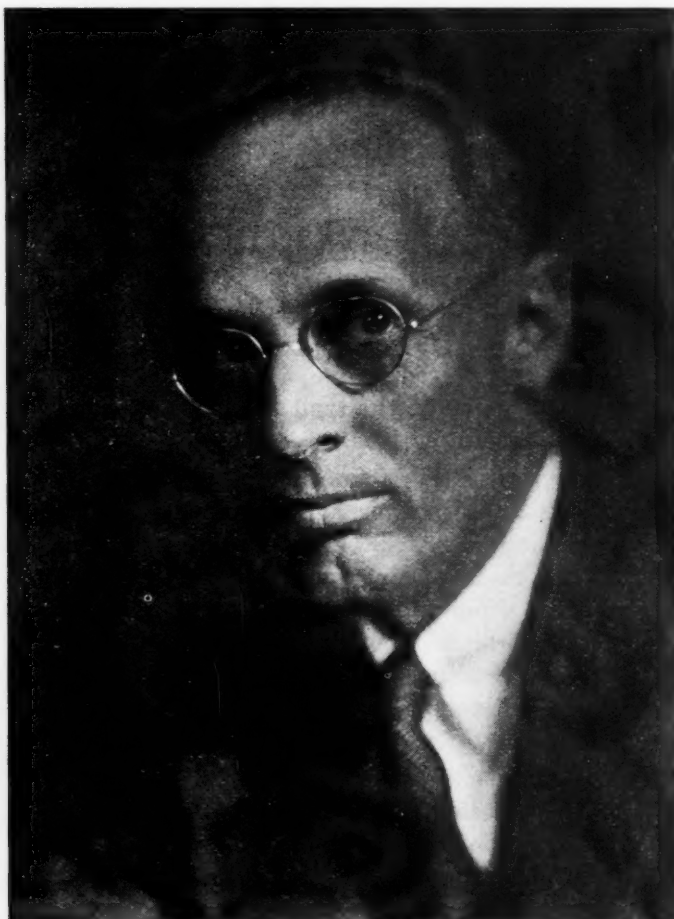
DR. ADOLPH J. PISTOR, CHIEF OF THE MEAT INSPECTION Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, died January 25 of pulmonary embolism following an operation. Dr. Pistor was widely known for his achievements in the veterinary profession and also for his sponsorship of the merit system for government employees, especially as it concerned the meat-inspection service and personnel of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Dr. Pistor was born July 7, 1876, in Newark, New Jersey. He entered the service of the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1898 at Chicago, and in 1900 was assigned to sheep-inspection work in Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. With the passage of the law in 1906 that provided for federal meat-inspection, Dr. Pistor was called upon to take an active part in organizing that service. Later he was transferred to administrative duties in Washington, D. C., and on January 1, 1935, became chief of the meat-inspection service.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

AT THE PHOENIX CONVENTION, ALBERT K. Mitchell, of Albert, New Mexico, was elected president of the American National Live Stock Association, succeeding Charles E. Collins, of Kit Carson, Colorado, who had been at the helm of the association since January, 1932.

Mr. Mitchell was born in Clayton, New Mexico, June 25, 1894. His father, the late T. E. Mitchell, was one of the pioneer stockmen of New Mexico, and owner of one of the largest and best-known outfits



ALBERT K. MITCHELL

in the Southwest—the Tequesquite Ranch at Albert—which specializes in the breeding of high-class Herefords. Here Albert Mitchell spent his early years under the guidance of a governess. He attended school in California, and graduated from Cornell University in 1917.

In 1928-30 he served in the New Mexico House of Representatives. He was president of the American Hereford Association in 1928. In 1933 he took over the management of the Bell Ranch—the largest holding in New Mexico—owned by the Red River Valley Company, of New Haven, Connecticut, succeeding Charles M. O'Donel, who had formerly also been president of the American National. At this time,

in addition to the new duties on the Bell Ranch, Mr. Mitchell was also associated with his father in the management of the Mitchell outfit. In 1932 and 1933 he was president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, and since 1934 has been a member of the Cattle Sanitary Board of New Mexico.

POISON PRAIRIE DOGS!

BY I. M. HOWARD
Stillwater, Oklahoma

RANGE LANDS CAN BE FREED OF PRAIRIE DOGS at little expense by the use of poisoned grain applied in early spring months.

A poisoned bait recommended by the entomology department of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College may be prepared as follows: Mix one tablespoonful of gloss starch with one-fourth cup of cold water and stir into three-fourths pint of boiling water to make a thin, clear paste. Mix one ounce of powdered strychnine with one ounce of baking soda and stir into the starch mixture. Next add one tablespoonful of glycerin or petrolatum and one-fourth pint of heavy corn syrup and stir thoroughly. Pour the liquid over twelve pounds of kafir and stir until each kernel is completely covered.

Prairie dogs should be pre-baited once with unpoisoned grain. About two teaspoonfuls of the grain should be scattered on the bare ground outside each burrow. When the rodents have eaten all the pre-bait, an equal amount of poisoned grain should be distributed in the same manner. Grain placed inside the burrow will be wasted.

Poisoned grain should be well scattered to prevent live stock from picking it up. Steam-crushed whole oats can be used instead of kafir, and the oats are less likely to be eaten by birds than is kafir.

Where poisoned grain fails to kill all prairie dogs, the use of carbon disulphide is recommended. Balls of cotton about two inches in diameter are soaked in carbon disulphide and thrown into the burrow. A lighted match is then tossed into the burrow and the mouth of the burrow closed immediately. This forces poisonous gas into the innermost recesses of the burrow. Carbon disulphide is highly inflammable and the container should be several feet away from the mouth of the den when the match is lighted to explode the carbon disulphide on the ball inside the den.

Infested burrows may be located by filling the entrances to all dens with dirt and examining them two days later. The inhabited ones will be dug out. The cost of treating each burrow with carbon disulphide is about two cents.

Grass yields are frequently doubled on prairie-dog infested pastures by treating them with poisoned grain and carbon disulphide.

Most Rural Canadians Own Homes

The last Dominion census reveals that 79 per cent of Canadian rural families live in homes which they own; in urban communities the figure is 46 per cent.

World Beef Production

The average beef production in the various countries of the world, the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics not included, is estimated at about 9,000,000 tons per annum.

German Cattle Numbers Decline

Cattle numbers in Germany were down to 18,918,000 head as of December 3, 1935—the smallest since 1930. This marked the second successive year of decline from the high point of 1933—19,165,000 head.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

CHEAPER MONEY NEEDED

TO THE PRODUCER:—There are 40,000 fewer sheep in Lake County due to foreclosures by banks, made as soon as prices came up so that they could realize their loans. Eight per cent interest has ruined the stock industry and farmers. Why should the stockmen and farmers pay such interest in these times? If the government wants to help us, it might just reduce our interest, then leave us alone. Good prices will help us, but it will be a long time before we will get out from under these five years of depression.

JOHN L. LYON.

Lakeview, Oregon.

LIVE-STOCK ASSOCIATIONS MERIT SUPPORT

TO THE PRODUCER:—The following letter, which I have recently sent to fellow citizens of Cherry County and western Nebraska, may be of interest to your readers:

A movement started last spring by the Nebraska Farm Bureau to organize a County Farm Bureau has gathered a certain amount of support within our county. At the present time a membership drive is being conducted and farmers and ranchmen are encouraged to join, the annual membership dues being \$5. The county and state Farm Bureaus in turn support the American Farm Bureau Federation, the mother organization. The combined organizations claim a membership of 500,000, covering thirty-eight states, and maintain that they constitute the most powerful lobby in Washington. They claim that they co-operate in sponsoring extension work within the county and direct the work of the county agricultural agent; and they expect that such county extension program be financed by membership dues and county appropriation.

An organization of this kind, with so many farmer members, can do much toward national legislation and is no doubt active and on the alert to help the farmer. Here in Cherry County, Nebraska, our major interest is the production of stock or feeder cattle under range conditions and methods, and it would be conservative to say that 90 per cent of our resources originate in this line of business. This estimate is based on the fact that upwards of 200,000 cattle are within our borders—in checking schedules in our files, practically no schedule of farmers or ranchmen has a grand total of any consequence where no cattle are listed. Our problems are of a vastly different nature from those of our Corn Belt neighbor, whose major interests are intense grain farming, hogs, and the fattening or finishing of cattle.

After considering these facts, it is only reasonable to believe that it is impossible for our people, whether they be bankers, merchants, automobile dealers, oil dealers, or laborers, to prosper unless the cattle business is on a profitable basis. It has been my firm conviction that an eastern farm organization cannot work for its own interests and at the same time work for the interest of the western people, and I now wish to call your attention to the fact that on January 14 the Farm Bureau went on record in Washington as favoring a processing tax on cattle, in direct opposition to our western interests. We have voiced continued opposition to this tax.

The Farm Bureau has little or nothing to offer, and we of the cattle country must look to our western senators and congressmen; we must look to our state and national stock associations, whose whole effort goes out day and night in a tireless manner to combat destructive legislation and offer opposition to powerful lobbies in Washington. So in closing let me remind you of the dangers of joining and encouraging

such eastern farm organizations, and also of the fact that our highly advanced methods of production, our well-improved farms and ranches, and our respected position as one of the best cattle-producing sections of the country all came before the days of the Farm Bureau.

IRWIN ADAMSON.

Cody, Nebraska.

CANADIAN QUOTA NOT INSIGNIFICANT

ANSWER TO THE CONTENTION THAT THE RECENT Canadian trade agreement will benefit cattle-producers in this country is contained in the below letter written by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, to Senator Robert D. Carey, of Wyoming:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29, 1936.

"DEAR SENATOR CAREY:

"I have before me a copy of a letter written by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to Senator Costigan under date of November 26, 1935, published in the *Congressional Record* of January 22. The letter is inspired by protests received by Senator Costigan from the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association and others against the proposed reduction of

Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association

Stock Yards Station, Denver, Colorado

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on Twenty-six Leading Markets

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SHEEP.....	Frank E. Randall
HOGS.....	Fred Miller

Offers Efficient Sales Service in
CATTLE, HOGS, AND SHEEP
At a Minimum Handling Charge

MEMBER OF NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
MARKETING ASSOCIATION

duties under the Canadian reciprocal trade agreement, and attempts to assure Colorado producers that the net result of the treaty will be to their benefit.

"Attention is called to the fact that, although substantial reductions have been made, the new rates are about the same as those in effect prior to the enactment of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill. This ignores the fact that prior to the enactment of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill our receipts of cattle from Canada and Mexico were running close to 500,000 head per year, and it was to reduce this competition and protect the American industry that the rates were increased at that time.

"It is immaterial that the quotas established are only a small percentage of the average total annual cattle slaughter in the United States. It is a well-established fact that a small surplus during any marketing period has an effect in lowering prices out of all proportion to the actual number involved, and the price-lowering is not merely on the surplus but on the total number marketed during any given period.

"I should like to call your attention especially to the paragraph on page 795, which reads as follows:

"Small as the increased imports may be in comparison with the total number of cattle annually raised in the United States, they will not be without direct benefit to American agriculture, for ordinarily they will be largely confined to feeder cattle requiring domestic feed to finish them off for the market."

"This statement is not in accordance with the facts. For the first eleven months of 1935, 122,327 head of cattle were inspected for entry into the United States from Canada, of which 55,384 head were classed as feeders and 49,179 head as slaughter cattle. That shows the number about equally divided. The effect of the reduced tariff rates will be still further to encourage the imports of slaughter cattle, because the quota is on numbers, and the greater the weight the greater the tonnage admitted at the reduced rates.

"For the first eleven months of 1935, the total imports of cattle in the United States were 350,000 head (according to the *Agricultural Situation*, issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, January 1), which were at the full tariff rates, while the total imports for the years 1931, 1932, 1933, and 1934 were only 349,000 head. The lowered rates will still

further increase imports and tonnage, to the detriment of the American cattle producer.

"While every attempt is made to indicate that substantial benefits will accrue from the treaty, at the same time great stress is laid upon the quotas established. In other words, the treaty is supposed to be good medicine, but it is only to be taken in small doses.

"The most significant statement in Secretary Hull's letter is at the top of page 795. I quote as follows:

"Because of the vital importance of the cattle trade to the Canadian prairie provinces, a concession with respect to cattle was effectively a *sine qua non* to any substantial trade agreement between the two countries."

"In other words, no treaty could have been made except by sacrificing the interests of American cattle producers, and that is just what was done, in order to encourage the export of industrial products from the East. I do not believe it was the spirit or intent of the Reciprocal Trade Act thus to sacrifice American agricultural producers, and repeated assurances have been given from high places to that effect. No effective farm relief can be worked out that does not contemplate preserving the American market for the American producer, and reciprocal trade agreements must be made to conform to that principle or the act should be repealed.

"F. E. MOLLIN, *Secretary*,

"AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION."

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

RECENT TRADE NEWS INDICATES THAT BUSINESS thus far in 1936 has about held to the December levels—commodity prices during January, with few exceptions, were firm; farm products held up; and stocks and bonds have shown strength.

Industrial operations reacted slightly from the high levels reached during December, but continued better than in January, 1935, and are expected to retain levels considerably above those of last year. A moderate falling-off in the automobile industry is reported, although deliveries have been running almost a third greater than a year ago. The building industry, which showed considerable improvement during the year just past, is expected to reach greater activity.

Indications are for an upswing in industry, agriculture, and trade, even aside from such stimulus as payment of the soldiers' bonus will cause.

TWO NEW ARIZONA LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

STARTING OFF WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF FIFTY, the Mohave Stock Growers' Association was organized on December 21 at a meeting held in Kingman, Arizona. Its president is E. L. Jameson; vice-president, Clyde Cofer; secretary, Aubrey Gist, and treasurer, H. B. Gaddis—cattlemen residing in the section around Kingman.

Another organization—the Pinal County Cattle Growers' Association—was formed at a meeting of some thirty cattlemen in Florence, Arizona, on January 25. J. C. Jamieson was elected president, Al Christensen, vice-president, and W. J. Clemens, secretary—all of Pinal County. The formation of this association "leaves only one or two sections in Arizona without an active local organization," observes the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association in its *Weekly Market Report and News Letter*.

Germans Produce New Pig Breed

A new breed of pigs, the result of careful breeding from the litter of an ordinary pig which was bred with a fierce wild pig from the Berlin zoo, is being developed in Germany. Their meat is reported to be as good as that of domestic hogs. They have the same structure. But their color is that of wild pigs—brown. Their vast superiority is their resistance to disease, especially just after birth.

CO-OPERATION PAYS

CATTLEMEN have become an important factor in the decisions affecting agriculture in the United States. Legislative questions and transportation matters have been shaped through decisions reached by organized cowmen.

Marketing is another issue on which these men are combining their strength in an effort to reduce the margin between the producer and the consumer. The results in an increasing number of western markets justify the statement that co-operation pays.

...

NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

160 North LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

AT WASHINGTON

THE ADMINISTRATION'S FARM PROGRAM, IN THE form of a bill amending the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, is moving forward in both Senate and House. The program expresses the policy of (1) preserving and improving soil fertility, (2) promoting economic use of land, (3) lessening exportation and unprofitable use of natural soil resources, (4) providing for stable supply of agricultural commodities adequate to meet consumer requirements at fair prices, and (5) re-establishing and maintaining farm purchasing power. Producers who have diverted acreage to soil-conservation crops are to receive grants to replace the old rental and benefit payments. Later the states will receive grants when they adopt control programs in line with the federal policy. Broad powers to control soil erosion and withdraw acreage from crop production are given the Secretary of Agriculture under the program.

Other farm-relief programs include a proposal by Senator McNary, of Oregon, built around export bounties. It would use the McNary-Haugen plan, under which farmers would finance exports; the export-debenture plan, which would have the government finance exports; and the domestic-allotment plan—one price in the domestic markets and another price in world markets.

In an administration-bill amendment offered by Senator Carey, of Wyoming, the government would acquire by short lease and purchase not to exceed 50,000,000 acres of submarginal land which has been planted to cereals for five years, taking such land out of production. The Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to determine domestic needs and buy and dispose of surpluses. "Domestic price of their products, plus the difference between the domestic market price and the world market price" would be assured the farmers, Senator Carey said.

The farm-organization representatives who assembled in Washington on January 11 believe that new AAA legislation should be based upon the principles (1) that the Secretary of Agriculture be empowered to withdraw land to promote conservation of soil fertility and balance production with demand; (2) that Congress provide the necessary appropriation; (3) that reasonable taxes be levied on processing of live stock and dairy products; (4) that valid provisions of the AAA be retained, particularly those relating to market agreements and that providing for use of 30 per cent of import duties for expansion of foreign and domestic outlets for farm products; (5) that marketing by government be done through farm commodity co-operatives; (6) that the American market should be preserved for the American farmer.

Two hundred million dollars of taxes collected under the AAA, declared by the Supreme Court not to be valid taxes, have been ordered returned to the processors. Concerning the order, Secretary Wallace said: "I do not question the

legality of this action, but I certainly do question the justice of it."

* * *

In the first week of February the Senate and House, at the President's suggestion, voted repeal of three measures left as debris from the Supreme Court's AAA decision—the Bankhead Act, which taxed excess cotton; the Kerr-Smith Act, which limited tobacco production; and the Potato Control Act.

* * *

The bonus money, says the *United States News*, will be employed as follows: \$684,000,000 in investments, savings, and uncashed bonds; \$518,600,000 for homes, farms, and equipment; \$470,500,000 for old debts; \$229,900,000 for personal and family expenditures; and \$97,000,000 for automobiles.

LOW-COST FEDERAL SEED GRAIN

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLIES OF SEED WHEAT AND seed oats will be available this spring to farmers of Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Montana at prices below the market level for comparable seed grain, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has announced.

The wheat supplies include durum and hard red spring wheat. For both types the price per bushel to farmers at country elevators will be \$1.10, plus freight and a 5-cent handling charge. The reduction made by the railroads means, officials said, that the average freight cost in Minnesota and the Dakotas will be about 8 cents a bushel. The price of the seed oats will be 30 cents a bushel, plus freight and a 3-cent handling charge. The deal is being handled for the Commodities Corporation by the commodities purchase section of the AAA.

The grain will be bought outright by country elevators, on the condition that until June 1 they sell it to farmers for seed use at the prices stipulated by the corporation. Officials said that under those conditions, elevators could, if they wished, make local arrangements for farmers to trade in enough of their light-weight grain to equal the fixed value of the tested full-weight grain.

1936 FOREST GRAZING FEES

THIRTEEN AND FIVE-HUNDREDTHS CENTS IS THE fee that will be charged monthly on each head of cattle grazed on the national forests during 1936. Last year the fee was 8.04 cents; in 1934, 7.51 cents; and in 1933, 9.05 cents—up-and-down movements, based on the price of cattle, to which the industry has become reconciled.

Grazing fees for cattle are fixed by applying the following formula: Average price during 1921-30 is to average price during any given year as original basic fee is to fee for year following "given year." For example: 6.62 (1921-30 average price of cattle) : 5.96 (average price in 1935) :: 14.5

(basic fee for cattle established by appraisal): α (13.05 or 1936 fee). In the case of sheep the basic fee is 4.5; the basic average price, based on 1920-32 levels, is 9.15 cents; the average price in 1935 was 6.84; and the fee for 1936 is 3.36. In 1935 the sheep fee was 2.71; 1934, 2.385; 1933, 2.05.

TWELFTH RESETTLEMENT REGION SET UP

FOR THE "PRECISE PURPOSE OF RETURNING A huge portion of ninety-five counties to grazing land or other purposes," a regional division, designated as No. 12, has been organized by the Resettlement Administration. It comprises fourteen counties in Colorado, twenty-five in Kansas, fifteen in New Mexico, three in Oklahoma, and thirty-eight in Texas.

Eleven regions in various parts of the country have been operating for several months, carrying out a program of "relocating destitute or low-income families" and, as expressed in the land policy of the Resettlement Administration, "converting unprofitable land to profitable utilization," because "land suitable for grazing should be used for grazing, and not, for instance, for wheat growing."

THOUSANDTH CREDIT UNION CHARTERED

A GROUP OF LINEMEN, MACHINISTS, OFFICE clerks, and stenographers working for a public utility company in Reno, Nevada, recently obtained a charter for Federal Credit Union No. 1000, according to an announcement by the Farm Credit Administration.

The new organization will have the same objective as 999 other co-operative thrift and loan associations chartered by

the federal government since the Federal Credit Union Act of June, 1934, was passed. The employees will start to save money through their own credit institution, and when misfortune strikes and bills come due, will get reasonable-cost personal loans without inconvenience and embarrassment.

Over 100,000 working men and women have begun saving money systematically through these credit unions. The credit unions are being organized at the rate of over 100 a month.

CO-OPERATIVES' MEMBERSHIP GAINS

FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING AND SUPPLY-buying associations over the United States showed progress during 1935. Gains were made both in membership and value of business. It is estimated that the 10,700 associations did a total business of \$1,530,000,000 during the marketing season of 1934-35—an increase of 21.1 per cent over 1933-34. Membership is estimated at 3,280,000—an increase of 3.9 per cent. Of these associations, 8,794 were engaged in marketing farm commodities and 1,906 in purchasing farm supplies.

SALE OF FARMS DOUBLES

THE NUMBER OF FARMS BOUGHT FROM THE twelve federal land banks by farmers and investors in 1935 was almost double the number for 1934 and more than double that for 1933, according to figures released by the Farm Credit Administration.

Eight thousand, seven hundred and eighty-eight whole farms and 1,379 part farms were sold in 1935 for \$29,213,000, compared with 4,865 and 698 for \$17,600,000 in 1934, and 4,128 and 637 for \$14,133,000 in 1933.

"NATIONAL" QUILTS FATS INSTITUTE

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION desires to give official notice that, by order of its Executive Committee at the recent meeting at Phoenix, it has withdrawn its membership in the Institute of American Fats and Oils, and consequently Secretary Mollin has tendered his resignation as vice-president of that institute and as a member of the board of directors. This withdrawal is due to a change in policy on the part of the institute—not to any change in the American National Live Stock Association's purpose. The American National will continue independently to support the Kleberg bill, which was introduced several years ago at its request, and to do everything in its power to further the cause of a 100 per cent domestic fats-and-oils program.

New Zealanders Greatest Meat-Eaters

New Zealand leads all countries of the world in meat consumption, with 279 pounds per capita. This includes 140 pounds of beef, 115 pounds of lamb and mutton, and 24 pounds of pork and lard.

Sheep Population in Argentina

A recent unofficial estimate gives the sheep numbers in Argentina as slightly in excess of 40,000,000, of which 15,000,000 are classified as merinos. Lincolns are said to number 14,500,000; Romney Marsh, 7,600,000; Corriedales, 3,400,000; and Hampshire Downs, 370,000. In addition there are comparatively small numbers of Southdowns, Dorset Horns, Oxford Downs, and Shropshires.

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OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

TRAFFIC COUNSELS' REPORT

BELOW ARE GIVEN EXCERPTS FROM THE SEVENTH annual report of Calvin L. Blaine, assistant traffic counsel, and Charles E. Blaine, traffic counsel, of the American National Live Stock Association. The report covers the calendar year 1935:

"On January 1, 1935, there were three cases filed by other parties pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission in which the American National Live Stock Association had actively participated and one in which it had merely filed petition of intervention. These cases have been subsequently disposed of. The decisions in the three cases were in our favor, while the decision in the latter case was against us.

"During the year, two additional formal cases were inaugurated upon petitions filed by us asking the commission to suspend certain tariff provisions published to become effective, and one upon a similar provision filed by others in which we merely joined. These proceedings have been disposed of in our favor, thus making a total of seven proceedings concluded before the commission during the year. A resumé of these cases follows:

Westbound Meat Cases

"... Speaking generally, eighteen complaints constituted this proceeding. . . . They assailed as unreasonable rates on fresh meats and packing-house products in straight and mixed carloads to nine Pacific-coast and intermountain states from packing-plants extending from Buffalo, on the east, to Ogden, on the west, including Fort Worth, St. Paul, and Butte. In addition, six of the complaints contained allegations of undue preference and prejudice. The Denver, Omaha, and Ogden complaints further assailed rates as unduly prejudicial because not properly related to rates on live stock, resulting in undue preference of slaughterers in the destination territory. In the Butte complaints, competing slaughterers in Utah and Colorado were alleged to be preferred. In the Duluth, Minnesota, and Grand Forks, North Dakota, complaints it was alleged that the rates were unduly prejudicial to such points and unduly preferential of competing slaughtering points in the same origin territory. Reparation was sought in thirteen of the complaints.

"The commission on July 9, 1935, rendered its decision sustaining our contentions as follows: (1) Rates on fresh meats and packing-house products in carloads to nine Pacific-coast and intermountain states from packing-plants extending from Buffalo to Ogden, and from Fort Worth to St. Paul and Butte (except certain rates from Butte), and rates from Spokane found not unreasonable, and some of them found not unduly prejudicial or preferential. Complaints dismissed. (2) Rates on fresh meats and packing-house products in carloads from Butte to certain points in Idaho and Utah found unreasonable. Reasonable rates prescribed for the future. (3) Maintenance by defendants in No. 26221 of rates on lard in tank-car loads from Ogden to points in California higher than contemporaneously maintained on lard in packages in carloads found unreasonable for the future.

Emergency Freight Charges, 1935

"... Substantially all the Class 1 railroads in the United States filed petition with the commission in August, 1934, seeking authority to increase freight rates and charges approximately 10 per cent. With respect to the rates on live stock, petitioners sought a flat increase of 10 per cent in all rates in excess of 25 cents. . . . This proceeding was submitted on oral argument January 15, 1935. The commission on March 26, 1935, rendered its decision, in which it denied the carriers authority to increase the line-haul rates on live stock, hay,

grain, certain fruits, and other farm commodities. However, it authorized specified increases in rates and charges on other commodities until June 30, 1936. The increases thus authorized on carload traffic ranged from ½ cent to 5 cents per 100 pounds.

Routing of Live Stock in West

"This proceeding . . . grew out of an attempt of the Union Pacific System to restrict routing on live stock between points on the L. A. & S. L., one of its subsidiary lines in Utah, Nevada, and California on the one hand, and the Missouri River markets on the other hand, to its line through Wyoming. . . . We filed joint petition on behalf of the association and the National Wool Growers' Association for suspension thereof. Similar petitions were filed by several connecting carriers and other parties. The commission thereupon suspended the schedules until July 15, 1935, and respondents voluntarily deferred their operation until September 15, 1935. Hearings were had at Denver and Salt Lake City in February and March, 1935. Briefs were filed, and the commission on July 23, 1935, rendered its decision, holding that the suspended schedules had not been justified and ordered their cancelation and the proceeding discontinued.

Nevada-to-California Rates

"... Complainant alleged that the rates on fat cattle and sheep in carloads from Nevada origins to San Francisco and other California markets were unreasonable and unduly prejudicial. It further alleged that the feeding-in-transit and out-of-line haul charges applicable to the traffic when the stock was fed en route at points in Nevada were unreasonable. It sought lawful rates and charges for the future, and reparation. We intervened in support of the complaint November 8, 1934. However, because of matters before Congress, we were unable to attend the hearings on March 4, 1935, at Reno. Hence, other than filing the petition of intervention, we took no part in the proceedings. The commission, on November 21, 1935, . . . dismissed the complaint.

Diversion or Reconsignment in West

"The Southwestern and Western Trunk Line carriers published, to become effective May 3, 1935, in four of their tariffs, provision which would have had the effect of prohibiting diversion or reconsignment of live stock in transit under application of the through rate from original point of origin to final destination after such live stock had left public feed-yards, public stock-yards, or public live-stock markets. Under said provision, live-stock producers would have been compelled to pay the full combination of the local rates over the point at which such diversion or reconsignment was consummated. This would have resulted in substantial increases in charges for transportation of live stock.

"Consequently, in behalf of the association and the National Wool Growers' Association, we filed joint petition of suspension on April 14, 1935. The commission thereupon suspended the objectionable provision and assigned the matter for hearing. However, in an effort to avoid cost incident to prosecuting the proceeding further, we pointed out to the interested carriers that their position was indefensible, in our opinion, and asked that they please withdraw the suspended tariffs. They complied with our request, and thereafter the commission on July 8, 1935, entered its further order dismissing the proceeding.

Supplements to Tariff

Western Trunk Line carriers in September caused Item No. 78 of Supplement No. 8 to L. E. Kip's I.C.C. A-2489 to be published to become effective November 1, 1935. Said provision proposed to invalidate use of intermediate rates in constructing

combination rates for transportation of live stock between points in Western Trunk Line territory where there were through rates in effect between the origin and destination points involved. As quite a number of the through rates in that territory exceeded the aggregate of the intermediate local rates, live-stock producers would have been compelled to pay materially higher charges on their shipments had said provision become effective. Therefore we filed petition asking for suspension of the proposed item. The commission, as is its usual custom, handled the matter with the carriers concerned, and they agreed to, and did, cancel and withdraw the objectionable provision.

"However, in so doing they published an additional Item No. 65 in the same tariff, which would have had practically the same effect as Item No. 78 which they withdrew. On November 19, 1935, we directed this fact to the attention of the commission. The carriers attempted to defend this item, but when the commission advised them that it intended to suspend it as requested by us, the carriers canceled and withdrew it, thus avoiding the expense to all concerned of prosecuting the matter further.

Transit on Live Stock in California

"Carriers serving California filed tariffs with the commission to become effective March 26, 1935, restricting the transit arrangements on live stock moving between transcontinental points. The Los Angeles Live Stock Exchange and others filed formal petition asking suspension of such restriction. . . . We joined in the protest. . . . The items containing the restrictions were suspended by the commission. Thereupon the interested carriers in conference with the protestants worked out arrangements satisfactory to all concerned and published regulations in conformity therewith. Thereupon protestants and respondents asked the commission to dismiss this proceeding, which action was taken."

Much other information concerning pending traffic cases, recent legislation, and traffic and transportation matters in general is contained in the traffic counsels' report. A copy of the full report may be had on request to the Office of Secretary, American National Live Stock Association, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.

THE PRIVATE CARRIER

IN A REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE MOTOR Carrier Act, enacted last year, the National Highway Users' Conference observes that—

"The private operator whose truck is engaged in the transporting of his own goods is not exempt from regulation under the federal Motor Carrier Act. Even though his physical operations do not cross state lines he may still come under federal regulation."

The review continues:

"There are 3,550,000 trucks registered in the United States. Over 900,000 trucks are on farms (26 per cent). Over 3,000,000 trucks are used in 'private' operations.

"Section 204 (a) (3) of the Motor Carrier Act provides that it shall be the duty of the commission 'to establish for private carriers of property by motor vehicle, if need therefor is found, reasonable requirements to promote safety of operation, and to that end prescribe qualifications and maximum hours of service of employees and standards of equipment. In the event such requirements are established, the term "motor carrier" shall be construed to include private carriers of property by motor vehicle in the administration of sections 204 (d) and (e); 205; 220; 221; 222 (a), (b), (d), (f), and (g); and 224.'

"The phrase 'if need therefor is found' leaves the matter entirely within the discretionary powers of the commission. It will not be difficult, however, for common carriers to prove that the private carrier is their greatest competitor, and that 'need' exists for establishment of such requirements.

Interstate Commerce

"The question as to whether operations are interstate or intrastate is continually being litigated. . . . Many private carriers will never know whether their operations are interstate until their cases have been decided by the courts or by the commission, and these decisions will usually be made after prolonged litigation.

"The transporting of a commodity in a private truck from one point to another, within a state, may only be one leg of the journey of that particular shipment. If that shipment has crossed a state line either before or after it is carried by the private truck, its interstate status comes into question.

Provisions of the Act

"Section 204 (d) subjects the private carrier to 'complaint' filed by any person, organization, state board, or body politic, or by the commission on its own initiative. After a public hearing is had before the commission, an order may be issued compelling the carrier to comply with the commission's requirements. Section 204 (e) provides that, after a decision, any party (the complainant or the carrier) may move for reconsideration or rehearing, thus prolonging the litigation.

"Section 205 prescribes the procedure before the commission; the referring of matters to joint boards; the administering of oaths and the issuing of subpoenas; the serving of legal notice upon interested parties, including state boards; the method of appeal to federal courts; etc.

"Section 220 subjects the carrier to such requirements as the keeping of records and accounts, and the making of reports to the commission. These requirements may deprive him of all privacy in his business affairs.

"Section 221 provides that every motor carrier shall file with the state board and with the commission the name of an agent upon whom service of any notice, order, or legal process may be made.

"Section 222 provides (a) that 'any person knowingly and willfully violating any provision of this part, or any rule, regulation, requirement, or order thereunder . . . may be subject to a fine of \$100 for the first offense or \$500 for a subsequent offense, and 'each day of such violation shall constitute a separate offense; (b) for action in federal court to enforce these penalties; (d) that any examiner or agent of the commission may testify as to records and accounts of a carrier in court or before the commission, and for penalizing the examiner for divulging this information otherwise, but in a hearing he will be subjected to cross examination by the attorneys for the competitors; (f) further for the giving of such information; (g) other penalties for the carrier, as when he fails or refuses to make a report to the commission, . . . 'or to keep accounts, records, and memoranda in the form and manner approved or prescribed by the commission, . . . ' or shall knowingly destroy or alter any such reports or records. . . .

State Co-operation

"Most states now have motor-carrier laws that are very broad in their effect. All states regulate common carriers by motor vehicle to some extent. A few states have included the regulation of private carriers. Many states are now planning to amend existing laws to 'parallel' the federal Motor Carrier Act. Other states are planning to adopt 'compliance statutes.' Under the 'adoption principle' a state may concur to the extent of making the requirements of the federal act apply locally.

Private-Carrier Operations

"Just what constitutes 'private-carrier' operations will undoubtedly be the subject of much prolonged litigation. A manufacturer, a merchant, or a farmer may have an employee who owns a truck. The employer may hire this man and his truck to work on a fixed monthly salary, or on a per-diem or per-mile basis, or a commission on sales of the products delivered by the employee and his truck. These commissions may be on the basis of so much per head of live stock, so much per ton of coal, or so much per gallon of gasoline. Obviously, such operations are those of the employer, and, as such, constitute private carriage.

"These operations, however, may be in direct competition with a common carrier transporting similar commodities between the same points. That common carrier, either rail or motor, may file a complaint with the commission alleging that the employee is a contract carrier. The latter may be required to appear before the commission and there defend himself against the complaint. No matter how many times such complaints are filed and such orders issued, the private carrier subject to this harassment must either appear and prove his innocence, or, in the last extremity, resort to an injunction proceeding in federal court for protection.

Hours of Labor

"Qualifications and maximum hours of service of employees will be defined in the requirements adopted by the commission. These requirements will affect the farmer and the small business enterprise operating a single truck in the same manner that it will affect the large fleet operators. An eight-hour-day rule would affect the one as it would the other.

"Among the 3,000,000 private-carrier trucks in the country there are less than 90 large-business-enterprise-operated fleets in excess of 100 vehicles each. Less than 5 per cent of private-carrier trucks of the country are operated by big fleet owners.

"The Co-ordinator of Transportation is preparing a study on an unemployment compensation program for all carriers—railroads, buses, trucks, steamships, and aeroplanes. The railroad labor organizations have asked federal legislation for this purpose, and prospects are that a bill will be introduced this session.

Exemptions

"Section 203 (b) (4a) appears to exempt 'motor vehicles controlled and operated by any farmer, and used in the transportation of his agricultural commodities and products thereof, or in the transportation of supplies to his farm.'

"This exemption, however, must be read with the following qualification: '(b) . . . except the provisions of section 204 relative to qualifications and maximum hours of service of employees and safety of operation or standards of equipment shall be construed to include . . .'

"In other words, the farmer is also a 'private carrier' and subject to the requirements above cited. And even if he denies that he is a private carrier he could be subjected to service of a complaint and would be obliged to defend himself before the commission or in federal court.

Other Exemptions

"This same situation exists with relation to (1) school buses; (2) taxicabs; (3) hotel buses; (4) motor vehicles controlled and operated by co-operative associations; (5) trolley buses; (6) 'motor vehicles used exclusively in carrying live stock, fish (including shell fish) or agricultural commodities . . .'; and (7) 'motor vehicles used exclusively in the distribution of newspapers.'

"Furthermore, the use of the word 'exclusive' in some of these exemptions raises a question. A vehicle engaged in carrying live stock or newspapers may be held as not operating 'exclusively' in such service, if it is also used for the transporting of other commodities.

"Each of these is a question that must ultimately be determined by litigation, or by the placid acceptance of a commission ruling requiring full compliance with the Motor Carrier Act and all the provisions, requirements, and rules promulgated thereunder.

Conclusions

"The private carrier has not been entirely forgotten by the authors of the Motor Carrier Act. Nor will he be forgotten by the state legislatures in the future. Generally speaking, the private carrier is defenseless. The vast majority of those operators are financially unable to cope with the situation. If his rights are to be protected he will have to depend upon the good offices of that small group of large industrial enterprises which is financially able to defend itself. The only alternative is organization."

EASTMAN PUSHES RAIL MERGING

TERMINAL CONSOLIDATION IN ELEVEN CITIES WILL be ordered within the next several weeks, it has been announced by Co-ordinator of Transportation Eastman. The order will mean abandonment of numerous passenger depots, freight stations and yards, and repair shops.

Further orders are to follow for similar consolidations and probably even merging of whole railroads. Mr. Eastman's plan is not to consolidate the roads into huge units, or stifle competition, but to enable competing companies "to co-operate to mutual advantage when their interests are common."

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN JANUARY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., February 1, 1936.

FORTUITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE DOMINATED live-stock trade since the turn of the year. Cattle prices, except in the case of a few specialties, slumped, hogs soared, and the live-mutton market merely wilted. Enumeration of responsible factors follows:

Cattle feeders, handicapped by unfavorable weather for making gains, plus inferior feed, especially corn, disturbed by gradually lowering prices, and apprehensive of an invasion by Canadian and South American beef, resorted to premature and somewhat frenzied liquidation of merely warmed-up steers.

Hogs, relieved of an onerous processing tax, responded by gaining \$1 per cwt., compared with pre-decision prices. This was not exactly a fortuitous circumstance, as the decision had been tipped off. Even the county agents and the page boys in Congress knew it was coming.

Live muttons lost slight ground, despite a booming wool market, without which the winter-fed crop would have been appraised 50 to 75 cents lower.

Had the Supreme Court processing-tax decision been reversed, hogs would have been set back to an \$8.50 to \$9 basis, whereas they climbed to \$10 to \$10.50 immediately. The decision prevented a vigorous bear raid, as processors were gunning for a huge accumulation of swine in the country, in anticipation of a favorable decision and higher prices.

Another sequence of the decision was a sharp reduction—3 to 5 cents a pound—in retail pork prices. This operated, temporarily at least, to the disadvantage of beef, which had received strong play during the taxed-pork period.

Prejudice against taxed meat vanished simultaneously with the decision, whereupon consumers went on a pork-eating orgy. The moral is obvious: A tax on any food arouses consumer resentment to the advantage of competitive products.

AAA Decision Caused Confusion

As a result of these fortuitous circumstances, confusion has run riot in every branch of the market. A somewhat peculiar and decidedly unsatisfactory condition exists in cattle trade, for which feeders are largely to blame. They replaced steers without consideration of intrinsic values last fall, assuming that current prices were permanent—always a fallacy. The turn of the year found many in serious straits, owing to corn deterioration and a sloppy market. But, reversing January market rules, spreads between top and "in-between"

Improved Denver Dehorner

Powerful tool for older cattle. New principle, two circle-opening blades—greatly strengthened and improved by heavier tool steel and a guiding groove which holds blades in close cutting action—cannot spread apart. A skillful application of power and cutting efficiency. Strongly constructed of finest tool steel, handles hardwood and steel welded on, total length 29". Circle opening 3½". Weight approximately 5½ lbs. Users endorse it highly.

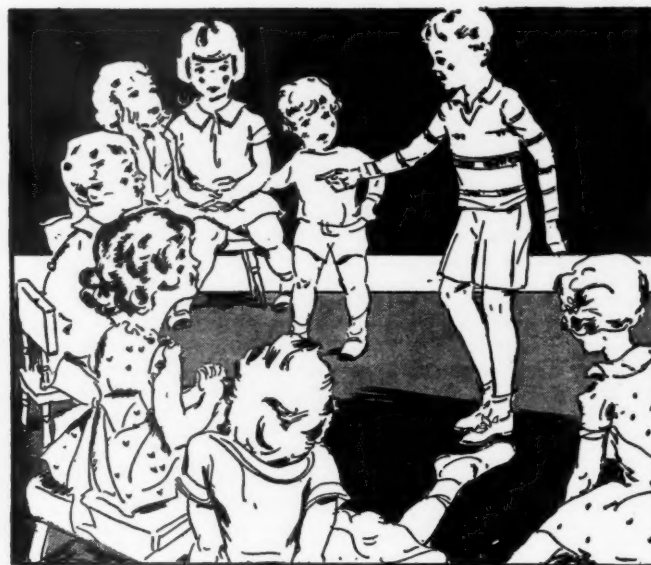
Price, \$10.00 each, postage paid in U. S. A., if cash accompanies order.

The Antiseptic Products Company

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Denver, Colo.

"EENY, MEENY, MINEY, MO..."



AND BLACKLEG VACCINE....

... BUT, you ask, "What has a nursery rhyme to do with Blackleg vaccines?"

Previous to April, 1934, the "Eeny Meeny, Miney, Mo" system of buying Blackleg vaccines was almost as logical in selecting a vaccine as it was to state a brand preference. The chief protection lay in the integrity of the manufacturer and his ability to produce consistently as potent vaccines as scientific knowledge and experience at that time would allow.

During "mild" years most good vaccines gave sufficient protection, but during seasons of virulent outbreaks losses were accepted with a shrug of the shoulders... it just couldn't be helped.

In April of 1934 Cutter Laboratories after years of intensive field and laboratory

work introduced Blacklegol (Blackleg Antigen)—guaranteed to produce, with One Shot, in cattle of ANY age, a greater and more lasting immunity than any other product on the market... a new type vaccine that by comparison made Bacterins and Aggressins as antiquated as bustles and blunderbusses.

"Eeny, Meeny, Miney Mo" still has its place in the nursery but don't use it in selecting Blackleg vaccines... this year insist on Blacklegol... proven by the consistent results of thousands of cattlemen on every cattle range the ONE reliable Blackleg vaccine for One Shot immunity, regardless of age.

● If your druggist, association or veterinarian cannot supply BLACKLEGOL, don't accept a substitute... write direct for quantity prices.

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Established 1897 BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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BLACKLEGOL

Full 5cc or
1cc Concentrate

10c
PER DOSE
(LESS IN QUANTITIES)

cattle widened. The former, owing to acute scarcity, sold anywhere from \$14 to \$15; the great bulk of the weekly offering, from \$10.75 down to \$8, where, somewhat singularly, feeder competition came into play, favorably influencing low-cost cattle with sufficient merit to interest beef-makers.

Cattle Display Firm Undertone

One comforting fact remained with feeders: On every light run, cattle prices showed a "comeback" tendency. Always a firm bottom was reached on every break, prices frequently reacting 50 to 75 cents per cwt. on light runs, demonstrating, incidentally, that beef was trickling, if not moving, into distributive channels. Killers kept on a short supply basis, which forced replenishment of coolers at frequent intervals. Whenever they went the limit they found themselves in trouble and under the necessity of buying for numbers. "Do not overbuy" was the constant injunction of the men at the beef-house. "The last thing I care for under present conditions is a full cooler," explained one of that ilk. "The moment a beef-buyer finds us fully stocked he insists on taking off a plumb dollar per cwt. Frequently we hold cattle alive in our pens, as the product would create selling resistance on the rail."

Feeders Create Congestion on Market

Feeders unconsciously adopted a selling policy prejudicial to themselves. On every 25- to 50-cent advance in the live-cattle prices they filled the market hopper to the brim, creating congestion and giving buyers opportunity to do dirty work. From every nook and cranny of the winter beef-making section came pleas for confidential information—inside stuff, if you please—concerning the future of the cattle market. Feeders, admonished by market advisers to stay away, coped with that advice, considering cattle disappearing over the scales as well sold, regardless of the price, especially if they kept the capital together and paid the feed bill.

Heavy Steers Scarce

The foregoing remarks are applicable to the rank and file of short-fed steers, many of which reached the market only two or three jumps ahead of fleshy feeder condition. A thin upper crust of finished long-fed bullocks were in possession of a specialty market, patronized mainly by eastern shippers, who were frequently under the necessity of taking indifferent heavy steers for substitute orders. The few heavy steers and even yearlings in the \$14 to \$15 range were distinct novelties, and there were barely enough \$11 to \$13.50 cattle to go around at any time. And these types will be scarce for a prolonged period, as the country tucked away few fleshy feeders over 800 pounds last fall and time is required to put on 300 to 400 pounds. Resultant tonnage diminution cannot even be estimated, but is considerable.

South American Imports Feared

Every lane has a turn, and eventually the fat-cattle market will reach one. There is nothing about visible supply so suggest a debacle. Weak holders are intent on unloading, and cannot be restrained. Regulars are playing, and will continue to play, the game out. The Canadian beef-glut bugaboo has vanished; what feeders fear now is a South American visitation.

Heifer Market Demoralized

A demoralized heifer market defies lucid explanation. Selling anywhere from \$7 to \$8.50, these heifers do not afford feeders a way out. The situation in this branch of the trade is somewhat analogous to that in steers—responsibility lies

at the doors of frightened feeders, indifferent to price results in a scramble to cash. Finished heifers, selling anywhere from \$9 to \$11 per cwt., are equal to the same performance as long-fed steers.

Canner and Cutter Prices Held Down

Continued heavy imports of South American canned meats hold canner and cutter prices down to \$3.50 to \$4.50. Beef cows vend largely at \$5 to \$6.50, and are in competition with "scallawag" steers carrying a beef covering, which are always popular with killers, furnishing low-cost product for which consumers clamor.

Green Cattle Hard to Get

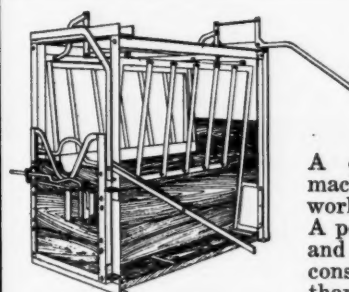
Feeders are looking anxiously for green cattle, finding hard picking. They are taking steers fed corn sixty to ninety days at \$7.50 to \$8.50. Demand from both quarters suggests a broad replacement market at the rise of grass.

Hog Market Goes Wild

Came the AAA Supreme Court decision, and a wild hog market ensued, prices rising and falling spasmodically after the fashion of a blizzard-beset thermometer. At Chicago, on the day the decision came, top hogs had dropped to \$9.25, and killers had inaugurated a bear drive, with an \$8.50 objective, had the decision been reversed. When the decision was known, prices skyrocketed, Omaha recording \$10.80; Chicago, \$10.60; but when the country immediately dumped over 1,000,000 head, held back in anticipation of the decision, a reaction set in. By the time this accumulation had been jettisoned, a series of blizzards came along, rocketing the market again. For several days in succession hogs were so scarce that urgent orders could not be filled, packers backing away, as serious competition on their part would have established an \$11 quotation. As it was, average cost of droves went above \$10 for a considerable period, while the market simmered and frothed.

Consumers Return to Pork

Contention that either growers or consumers had paid the 2½-cent tax was at least partly answered when hogs became barely stabilized at prices around \$1 per cwt. higher than before the decision; fresh pork was reduced to consumers 4 to 5 cents a pound, indicating that the tax had been split. To celebrate the event, consumers returned enthusiastically to fresh pork; chain stores signalized it by running "leader" sales, whereat produce was vended at or below wholesale prices, a veritable pork-eating orgy resulting. In some instances, packers actually lodged complaint with killers for cutting retail prices below wholesale cost. An accumulation



The Turner Dehorning Chute

A complete cattle-handling machine for all kinds of work on all kinds of cattle. A portable combination chute and stock of modern steel construction. Giving more than satisfaction to cattlemen who are using them.

THE TURNER DEHORNING CHUTE

Eagle Nest, New Mexico

of frozen loins speedily disappeared, and when the storm period set in, the platter was bare.

Future of Hog Market

Consensus of trade opinion is that hog prices will hover around current quotations until a new crop is ready. The spring pig crop of 1935, now at the maturity stage, is rapidly disappearing, attracted to market by a premium on weights below 220 pounds—a condition that always exerts a magnetic influence. Stocks of meats and lard are at the lowest ebb of the century, but the big hog is the underdog of the market. The 1935 fall pig crop has been advertised as heavy, and was doubtless larger than the last, but that was greatly reduced, as contract signers, having their full quota, were out of the game. Breeding for spring litters is on an extensive scale, but is limited by paucity of breeding stock.

Post-Mortem of Processing Tax

Now that the processing tax, and with it curtailed production, has gone on the junk pile, the mess it created deserves post-mortem attention. That it did exert some restraining influence on pork production cannot be successfully disputed, although drought was the main factor. It did create dissension in agrarian circles by reason of undue pressure, if not coercion, to get growers' names on the dotted line. County agents and county fieldmen exercised a mild autocracy in a strenuous effort to put the thing over. The resultant "gentle rain of checks" acted as a mild palliative, although an underlying and frequently audible conviction existed that results were prejudicial to the industry. Under a soil erosion plan it is presumable that the hog will be immune to future government interference; but you never can tell.

Swine Breeding Stimulated

The immediate result will be expansion. Current prices are stimulating swine breeding everywhere—down East, in the Cotton Belt, all over the drought-blasted area of the Corn Belt, in the intermountain country, and even on the Pacific coast. The pendulum has a confirmed habit of swinging to the extreme of its arc in either direction. Meanwhile hogs are good property around \$10 per cwt.

Sheep Market Steady

Live-mutton trade exhibits a modicum of stability; at least, it does not flop all over the yard in emulation of what happens weekly in other branches of the trade. On a break of \$1.25 since the high spot last December, it has moved in somewhat orderly manner, lambs selling within a range of \$10.25 to \$10.75. At these prices, killers have been contented when able to take off 25 cents one day, replacing it the next as numbers varied. Occasionally one of the big houses has "gone short," which has had the effect of forcing it to buy for numbers, insuring a moderate splurge; but the buying side of the trade has successfully resisted reinstatement of the \$11 quotation, although able at no time to buy decent lambs under \$10. A sprinkling of yearlings sold at \$9.25 to \$9.75, this product going to consumers in the guise of lamb.

Mutton Supply Low

A scant supply of mutton has made it possible for fat ewes to sell anywhere from \$4.50 to \$5.50. Winter lamb replacement has dropped to the zero mark, shearers securing practically nothing, as the bulk of the winter crop reached the market with sufficient covering to go to the meat-rail. This should make for price improvement late in the season; at least, the market will not be required to absorb a gob of shorn fat lambs.

Trans-Missouri Feeding Areas in Strong Position

By the end of January, feed-lots east of the Missouri River were depleted, even Indiana loading out early. This leaves Nebraska, Colorado, and other trans-Missouri feeding areas in strong strategic position. Colorado went into the winter with more lambs than the previous year; but at that its holding was below normal, and for a month past feeders in that quarter have been "topping out"—a process of supply attrition to be reckoned with. Signs of this were evident at Denver, where weekly receipts have been steadily increasing.

Wool Sustains Lamb Market

Wool is the stout prop under the lamb market, and will continue to be if the minor market keeps to its upward course. Pelts, worth around \$1 per cwt. a year ago, are now realizing \$3, and each week's added feeding improves weight and value of the fleece. Deduct the value of wool from the price of a \$10.50 lamb, and cost of meat is reduced to a basis where it can be readily absorbed at a wholesale carcass cost ranging from \$17 to \$21 per cwt. Remission of the hog processing tax—4½ cents a pound on fresh loins—checked the upward trend of the lamb market, as chain stores immediately starred pork as a sales leader, a prominence occupied by both lamb and mutton previously.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on February 3, 1936, compared with January 3, 1936, and February 1, 1935, were as below (per 100 pounds):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

	Feb. 3, 1936	Jan. 3, 1936	Feb. 1, 1935
STEER (700 lbs. up):			
Choice	\$15.50-17.50	\$16.00-18.00	\$17.50-18.50
Good	13.00-15.50	13.50-16.50	16.00-17.50
STEER (500 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	14.50-17.00	15.50-17.50	16.00-18.00
Good	12.00-15.00	12.50-15.50	14.50-17.00
YEARLING STEER:			
Choice	14.50-16.50	15.50-17.00	16.00-17.50
Good	12.00-14.50	12.50-15.50	14.50-16.00
COW:			
Good	10.50-11.50	9.50-10.00	11.00-12.50
VEAL:			
Choice	16.50-17.50	16.00-17.00	13.50-15.00
Good	15.50-16.50	15.00-16.00	12.50-13.50

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMB (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$16.50-17.50	\$18.50-19.00	\$16.00-17.00
Good	16.00-16.50	17.50-18.50	15.00-16.00
MUTTON:			
Good	8.00-9.00	9.00-10.00	10.00-11.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-12 lb. average	\$16.50-18.00	\$21.00-22.50	\$15.50-17.00

MARKET GOSSIP

BY J. E. P.

KILLERS HAVE RUN INTO WHAT THEY CALL A "bad" crop of cattle. Few long-fed steers are now to be had, and few will be made on the available supply of corn. Cattle went into feeders' hands at light weight and are being short-routed to the butcher, deficient in tonnage and condition and of low beef-yielding capacity. Some short-fed cattle are making narrow margins for feeders; others are figuring in the "red." Scouting the Corn Belt fails to locate weight in the feed-lot, and whenever a bunch of big steers is sighted it

lacks quality. Contiguous to Springfield, Illinois, in the center of a once noted beef-making area, a load of qualified steers weighing 1,200 pounds or more could not be spotted with aid of a search warrant.

Passing of prohibition has not revived distillery cattle feeding to any extent. Chicago has been getting a string of Matadors from Peoria, Illinois, that sold from \$8.70 to \$9.15. Cost of gain is unavailable, but they are probably holding the money together in addition to paying a feed bill. The old method of feeding hot slop is no longer in vogue at the large plants, although still used in Kentucky. The residue of the mash is dehydrated by a spinning process, going to the feed-trough in moist condition.

Every topic has many angles. At a certain college in the environs of Chicago a few days subsequent to the AAA decision, pork chops were served the student body after a long lapse, the management refusing to pay the tax, whereupon the assemblage shouted lustily and in unison: "Hurrah for the Supreme Court!"

Washington—not D. C.—has contributed more cattle to the Chicago supply recently than western Canada. All these far-western cattle carry more weight than Pacific-coast markets require. Seattle and Spokane have been the principal points of origin, and the trip has been profitable despite running cost of 1½ to 2 cents a pound, as the spread between heavy and light cattle at Chicago is \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt.; on the Pacific coast it is only about 50 cents per cwt.

Forecast, prognosis, or whatever term is appropriate, is abundantly on tap, and no two of these agree. Even the college professors are taking a hand at the game. Much of it is bosh—individual opinion based on poor judgement. A Spokane commission-house circular said this recently:

"The writer has been fooled so many times that he realizes he is a flop as a crystal gazer. Of course, everybody is concerned, not with what has gone over the dam, but with probabilities. Maybe the Supreme Court will declare fish and eggs unconstitutional and make beef and lamb chops compulsory, but as we gaze from here we are not seriously hopped over any substantial rise in prices."

If these prognosticators possessed ability to peer into the future, they could wax rich by saying nothing, taking advantage of their inside information meanwhile. Last fall I participated in a hunting expedition in northern Wisconsin. At a backwoods caravansary, one of the party asked a Senegambian porter, engaged in floor-scrubbing, about prospective hunting weather. "Boss, if I could answer dam' fool questions like that I wouldn't be doing this kind of work," replied the coon. Invariably the more blatant a dopest is, the less he knows. And there is that Scotch adage to remember: "You can hang a man for what he says, but not for what he thinks." The rule is: Never predict lower prices; the country resents it. If you make a lucky guess, you are a prophet; otherwise, a flop.

Rehabilitating the swine industry will be retarded by scarcity and high cost of breeding stock. Aged sows have been cashed in response to high prices; gilts are not reliable breeders. An Indiana man, intent on expanding his hog business, sent 120 gilts of last spring to the breeding pen; 90 per cent of them have gone to the butcher. Female pigs may have litters when twelve months old, but it is a risky performance. Sacrifice of aged reliable sows will be reflected in the 1936 spring pig crop.

President Cabell, of Armour and Company, urged California to grow more hogs in a recent Pacific-coast speech. As California has been a heavy hog-buyer east of the Rocky Mountains for years past, this admonition will arouse resentment in Nebraska, Kansas, and the Dakotas, all of which are staging a swine comeback.

Government dopesters estimate cattle on feed compared with the corresponding period of 1935 at 41 per cent plus. Most of this increase is credited to the Corn Belt and feeding areas west of the Missouri River. The comparison is with a decidedly short crop of cattle fed in 1935, and the figures, assuming correctness, need interpretation, as a large percentage of the 1935 fall replacement went to fill vacancies created by the 1934 drought and the great bulk of the purchase was light cattle, many of which do not figure in the beef supply of the immediate future. They are being winter-roughed to finish out on grass next summer.

"Phony" feed makes 'phony' cattle," remarked a buyer surveying a Monday run at Chicago. "You cannot make fat cattle on unthreshed soy beans, silage, or high-moisture-content corn, especially when the corn has been frozen." Usually cattle condition improves with the turn of the year; on this occasion the rule has been ignored.

Canada has not lived up to its advertisement since the reduced duty of one cent a pound became effective. A few Ontario cattle have been attracted to Chicago; invariably shippers have returned home indulging in profanity over financial results. Western Canada has made a few trial shipments, with uniform bad luck. Ontario may make an effort to fill the 155,000 quota at the cut rate later in the season, but it is evident that western Canada will not shy many hats into the ring. The secret is this: When the duty was reduced, Canadian killers added that much to domestic cattle prices, so that the principal effect of the reciprocity concession has been to mark Canadian prices up, to prevent loss of Canada's beef supply.

Cattle-buyers at the market have been laggards of late. Recently when the buying corps of one of the major concerns emerged from the comfortable seclusion of its office about eleven o'clock, an impatient shipper remarked: "Well, they are

Best Blood of the Hereford Breed Selling at

Elwood, Neb., Feb. 28

37 Bulls

Among the thirty-seven bulls are many outstanding herd-bull prospects. There will be sons of Anxiety Jr., Advance Mixer, and Prince Domino 48th.

AMONG THE BULLS:

Beau Agitator, son of Domino—has headed Coder herd for years.
Anxiety Mischief, son of Beau Mischief—has been noted factor in building Hereford breed.
Anxiety Jr., son of Anxiety Mischief—heads Coder herd today.
Roll Prince Domino 5th—an outstanding feature of the offering.

13 Females

Good producers, good individuals, good pedigrees. Daughters of Anxiety Jr., Advance Mixer, Anxiety Mischief, and Beau Agitator guarantee right breeding.

AMONG THE FEMALES:

Two cows are by Anxiety Mischief by Beau Mischief and out of direct daughters of Beau Mischief.
Another cow by Beau Agitator by Domino, and out of daughter of Beau Mischief, and second dam by Beau Mischief.
Females of close-up, intense Domino, Beau Mischief breeding.

WRITE FOR CATALOG

J. W. CODER & SON Elwood, Neb.

coming out to bid at last." "Brother, you are in error," commented a bystander. "They are going to lunch." Frequently the bulk of business, especially in cattle, is transacted during the matinee, and the first order of the following day is "unfished business."

Who paid the processing tax on hogs? "It came off the market price of our hogs," chant growers in chorus. "We paid it when we bought pork," insist consumers. Processors are equally emphatic that the money went from their cash boxes directly to Uncle Sam's treasury. The problem will go into limbo to keep company with "Where was Moses when the light went out?" "How old is Ann?" and "Who struck Billy Patterson?"

Remission of the processing tax put a decent slice of ham back into the ham sandwich, displacing the scrap of meat previously used as a filler. A voracious individual asserts that during the fragment period he lifted the top slice of bread to apply a dab of mustard, whereupon wind from an electric fan carried the meat over the distant horizon.

"Instead of resenting the Supreme Court's AAA decision, the 'brain-trust' should greet it as a face saver," asserted a philosopher. "At that juncture they were up against stubborn refusal to sign a new contract all over the Corn Belt. Now they are in a position to pass the buck to the court." Hog-growers were realizing that at least part of the tax had been taken off the market price of their property, and a majority had tired of restraint. The fall plebiscite was engineered in a manner calculated to arouse resentment at strong-arm tactics. One editor, Kurt Schmidt, of the *Carroll County* (Illinois) *Gazette*, interviewed twenty-two farmers in town the day the decision was rendered; an even twenty expressed approval.

Denver's stock-cattle sale this year developed an average price of \$8.30 per cwt., compared with \$7.80 in 1935, \$5.05 in 1934, \$5.80 in 1933, \$6.35 in 1932, \$8.91 in 1931, \$12.01 in 1930, and \$12.21 in 1929. These figures indicate with reasonable accuracy the ups and downs that commercial cattle-feeders have encountered during the period indicated. Although this year's price is somewhat higher than that of 1935, the sale was held at a discouraging moment when fat-cattle values were being pruned by a gradual process of attrition. The result suggests that the beef-making arm of the industry retains at least a modicum of confidence.

Marked subsidence of imports of foreign cured and cooked meats, mainly canned beef from South America and pork from Europe, developed during January. All this product pays a stiff duty, but, in the case of pork, Polish packers are beating the tariff by collecting from their government an export bounty equal to the United States tariff, and by the cooking process have further minimized the tax, as it enables them to shrink poundage. Meat imports on such a gigantic scale, usually exceeding 1,000,000 pounds a week and frequently reaching 1,500,000, have aroused resentment in hog-growing circles, even provoking consumer ire. A woman demanded of a Chicago

marketman recently the reason he carried Polish cooked pork. "Because it sells for less money than the domestic article," he responded artlessly. "As long as you carry it in stock I will buy nothing more from you," she retorted. "Her husband works for a packer," remarked the butcher when she was out of earshot.

This is from a circular by the Glover Commission Company, Spokane, Washington: "We had Republican hogs most of this week at \$10.75; toward the end of the week they went Democratic at \$10.25." Republicans would like to see hogs rocket so that they could join in a chorus, "We told you so." Democrats would like to see the bottom fall out so that they could shout gleefully while wiggling thumbs at their noses.

Winter demand for green stock cattle has been urgent at all times. Few were available, and consequently replacement is light, but this demand suggests brisk business when Corn Belt pastures revive. A considerable acreage of corn land, taken out of cultivation by the operation of the AAA plan, has gone into grass. Much of it will stay there, and it cannot pay taxes unless utilized. That the West shipped cattle closely last fall in response to lucrative prices will not be disputed. Anticipating hard picking, the Corn Belt is getting into buying action early, placing orders for execution at the first opportunity. Canadian cattle—over 700 pounds and eligible to the 2-cent duty—are finding the country outlet, one drive of 80 head going to Indiana late in January at \$6.85, weighing 818 pounds. The shrink was 80 pounds a head on the journey from Alberta, and, after spending considerable time figuring, the owner announced that his home net was \$3.35—a basis that will effectively discourage Canadian cattlemen from hitting the American market trail.

On January's last round, fat-cattle trade dropped into a semi-demoralized condition. Even moderate runs created acute congestion. Putting out tracers for the trouble disclosed a similarly somnolent beef market. One of the smaller killers, calling in his buyers, explained thus: "I have a cooler half full of beef and a string of cattle in the pens. If I filled the cooler, my customers would figure that I was loaded to the guards, and demand concessions. Nothing boggles meat business more than a heavy visible supply." This is pure psychology, of course, but is highly illustrative. Nobody ever understood the vagaries of beef distribution, but this is axiomatic: When beef goes out of the cooler, it is promptly replaced. Business cannot be transacted with empty shelves.

Suspicion is being cast on a booming wool market. Chat with ten wool dealers and you will find nine of them at least conservative bulls; the other will shake his head dubiously. To one of them the writer recently expressed confidence in further appreciation. "Have you figured on the result of emancipating cotton from processing taxes?" he asked. "That tax was so burdensome that it actually curtailed consumption to the advantage of wool. Relieved of the impost, cotton fabricators will get into action." There is merit in the contention, as taxed pork encountered such serious discrimination as to switch consumption to beef.

"Difference of opinion makes horse racing possible," quoth Mark Twain long years ago. Also, it makes a cattle market. Recently a Chicago cattle salesman penned a load of steers, with \$11.50 as his asking price. During the next hour he received bids ranging from \$9.75 to \$11.25, the highest man getting the property. This is not an extreme case.

That meat is not indispensable to many consumers was demonstrated during the January blizzard, when marketmen could have suspended business several days in succession profitably. Women remained in the comfortable seclusion of their homes, going to the pantry armed with a can opener in preference to facing subarctic temperatures. The writer visited one

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We specialize in the rugged, large-boned type of Herefords,
rather than the smaller, fine-boned show type.

Quality has no substitute

JOHN E. PAINTER & SONS

ROGGEN, COLORADO

of the principal State Street markets during the afternoon of the low-temperature day to find it practically deserted. Meat deliveries by killers were suspended, meat accumulating in the coolers. The ten-day storm cost feeders, killers, and distributors a sum aggregating millions of dollars, as it is axiomatic that meat evading consumption one day is not eaten the next.

Log of a winter jaunt through the Corn Belt: Main roads open; side roads blocked. Cattle not doing well on frozen, high-moisture-content corn. Hogs ready for butcher scarce; many fall shoats coming along. Porcine breeding stock in urgent demand. Tractor salesmen doing thriving trade on spring delivery account. Preparation to expand corn acreage in consequence of AAA decision. Long lines of recently purchased cars congest town and village streets. Acres of snow mounds tell of waste crop of soy beans. County agents audible in criticism of Supreme Court AAA decision. General realization that "gentle rain of checks from Washington" has ended. Proponents of export-bounty and equalization-tax schemes butting into conversation. Farmers complaining that PWA deprived them of labor. Opposition to packer acquisition of accumulated processing taxes under court injunction. Editors of Republican weekly papers showing their teeth to New Deal agrarians. Farmers protesting against heavy imports of cooked Polish pork. Townsend meetings, usually resulting in substantial collections, mostly silver coin.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on February 3, 1936, compared with January 1, 1936, and February 4, 1935, (per 100 pounds):

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	Feb. 3, 1936	Jan. 1, 1936	Feb. 4, 1935
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$11.75-13.25	\$12.00-13.50	\$12.50-13.65
Good	9.00-12.00	9.25-12.50	10.00-12.50
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.)	11.00-13.00	11.50-13.25	12.00-13.50
Good	8.75-11.75	9.00-12.00	9.50-12.50
Medium (900 lbs. up)	7.25- 9.00	7.00- 9.00	7.25 10.50
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to choice	8.25-12.25	8.75-12.00	9.25-12.75
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	7.25-11.00	8.00-10.50	8.50-11.50
COWS:			
Good	5.75- 6.75	5.75- 7.00	5.50- 7.75
CALVES:			
Good to Choice	7.00-10.00	7.00-10.00	6.00- 9.50
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice	7.00- 8.25	7.25- 8.50	5.75- 8.50
Common to Medium	5.50- 7.50	5.25- 7.50	4.75- 6.00
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	9.80-10.50	9.00- 9.60	7.90- 8.15
LAMBS:			
Good to Choice	9.75-10.75	10.50-11.25	8.00- 9.10
EWES:			
Good to Choice	3.85- 4.75	4.25- 5.50	3.65- 5.00

HIDE SITUATION FAVORABLE

BY J. E. P.

BUSY SHOE FACTORIES ARE MAKING AN ACTIVE hide market, buttressed by diminished stocks of leather, with raw material in strong hands. Under promises by retailers that shoe prices are headed toward a higher level, consumers are replacing. Old shoes have been kept in service as long as cobblers were sufficiently ingenious to keep them intact. Now the purchase of new footgear is imperative. Other than shoemaking interests are also active in the leather market.

On packer account it is an 11½- to 15-cent market for green hides. Country-hide price-levels have been maintained on a firm basis. Packer hides are in strong hands and the

volume of country business is small, bulk of the cattle slaughtered over the hinterland going through federally inspected plants.

Anxiety has existed concerning ultimate disposal of government-owned hides accumulated through the drought period, but this solicitude is diminishing. In fact, the accumulation is no longer considered a price menace. Probably the entire package will be absorbed without creating a ripple on the surface of the regular market. Michigan cleared a package of federally owned cow hides late in January at 10.76 cents; others were moved at New York, Omaha, and Pacific-coast points on practically the same basis, which is satisfactory, considering quality and condition. Branded cows are selling at 11½ cents on the regular market, the buyer getting packer selection with guaranteed freedom from grubs. Government hides are heavily sorted, are sold "straight," and show lack of storage care, so that regular hides at 11½ cents are not so relatively high, compared with 10¼ cents for governments, as the figures indicate.

Technically, the spot market is in strong position. Tanners are working on slightly higher inventories than normally at this season, but they know the intrinsic value of their property. Packers are not forcing sales, but show a disposition to let hides go on firm to fractionally higher prices. Consumption in 1935 was a record, and promises to continue. Future prices are relatively lower than the spot market, and, in turn, the latter is under foreign prices. It may not be amiss to emphasize the fact that this is an importing nation. The fact that government hides have been so readily absorbed removes possibility of dumping.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS OF frozen and cured meats, lard, poultry, creamery butter, and eggs on January 1, 1936, as compared with January 1, 1935, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds except as otherwise noted):

Commodity	Jan. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1935	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	84,278,000	116,202,000	59,464,000
Cured beef*	22,766,000	24,738,000	18,841,000
Lamb and mutton	3,021,000	4,560,000	3,667,000
Frozen pork	55,588,000	230,866,000	145,435,000
Dry salt pork*	53,639,000	68,841,000	78,556,000
Pickled pork*	214,406,000	387,856,000	354,530,000
Miscellaneous	74,234,000	126,033,000	76,808,000
Total meats	507,932,000	959,096,000	737,301,000
Lard	52,432,000	118,107,000	78,873,000
Frozen poultry	107,205,000	132,001,000	117,752,000
Creamery butter	40,169,000	47,175,000	54,102,000
Eggs (case equiv.)	2,940,000	2,502,000	2,947,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

Herd Bulls **Range Bulls**

PURE-BRED HEREFORD

CATTLE

Perry Park Ranch

Larkspur, Colorado **R. P. Lamont, Jr., Owner**

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, shipments, and federally inspected slaughter of live stock at sixty-two markets for the month of December, 1935, as compared with December, 1934, and for twelve months ending December, 1935 and 1934:

RECEIPTS

	December		Twelve Months Ending December	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	1,271,965	1,278,504†	14,985,546‡	19,679,264‡
Calves	537,296	518,034†	6,618,004‡	8,090,438‡
Hogs	2,035,504	3,139,869	19,561,939	33,719,923
Sheep	1,588,203	1,541,844†	25,567,354	26,137,672‡

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	December		Twelve Months Ending December	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	476,918	420,656	6,266,421	8,435,006
Calves	172,593	144,807	2,171,100	2,358,735
Hogs	605,873	953,441	6,025,008	9,778,135
Sheep	619,890	644,472	12,626,470	12,714,810

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	December		Twelve Months Ending December	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	205,781	135,835	2,890,784	3,175,842
Calves	35,984	29,027	501,496	489,191
Hogs	35,629	41,711	333,551	557,731
Sheep	111,539	133,199	2,993,796	3,360,763

SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

	December		Twelve Months Ending December	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	892,173	795,844	9,665,840	9,943,086
Calves	480,878	447,005	5,679,399	6,077,629
Hogs	2,874,855	4,196,894	26,057,627	43,876,393
Sheep	1,368,654	1,294,896	17,644,188	16,055,474

*Exclusive of calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

‡Includes animals purchased for Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

Cattle

MOST CATTLE WERE LOWER AT DENVER AS WELL as at other markets in January. A big run of short-fed cattle was largely responsible. Fed steers and beef cows were 25 to 40 cents lower; veals and calves weak to 50 cents off; and stockers and feeders steady to weak. Bulls, however, closed 25 to 50 cents higher; heifers, \$1 to \$1.50 lower.

Haley-Smith Company

Breeder of Registered Herefords

Bulls for Sale at All Times

STERLING, COLORADO

Receipts were quite liberal, totaling 59,000 head, compared with 42,000 in January a year ago. Many cattle came from Utah, Idaho, Oregon, California, and Washington, whereas none were received from those states a year ago. More than forty loads of cattle came to Denver from Utah and Idaho during the last week of the month.

Good fed steers sold at \$8 to \$10 early in January. Few were good enough to get above \$8 late in the month, but odd good steers sold at \$10 and cut-backs from show-loads sold during show-week up to \$12. Fed heifers topped at \$9 early, but few got above \$8 late in the month. Choice beef-cows sold early at \$6 to \$6.50, few getting above \$5.75 late in the month, although choice lights brought \$6 or better. Cannery and cutters sold at \$3.50 to \$4.50. Choice veals brought \$11 at times, but at the close \$10.50 was taking the best, and good ones sold from \$10 down. Bulls earned up to \$6 near the close, to top the market. Good-grade bulls sold during the month at \$5 to \$5.50, thin kinds at \$4.50. Fleshy feeders of good quality made \$7.50 to \$8.40; fair kinds, \$7 to \$7.50; and plainer steers, \$6.

Hogs

Sharply higher prices featured the hog market during January. The up-turn was around 50 to 65 cents. Arrivals totaled 51,835 head, compared with 56,298 head a year ago.

Desirable hogs were bringing up to \$9.50 early in January. Following the Supreme Court ruling, prices advanced to \$10.65. Later the market worked lower, and, at the close, top hogs sold at \$10, and fair kinds down to \$9.50. Packing sows sold mostly at from \$8.50 to \$9. Feeder pigs were scarce, those available going at \$9 to \$9.50 at the close.

Lambs

Fed lambs lost 60 to 75 cents during January. Trading was active, however, and the entire liberal supply sold from day to day at good prices, compared with other markets. Sheep and lamb receipts were 139,000 head in January, compared with 117,000 head a year ago. Northern Colorado feed-lots contributed 93,500 head, compared with 66,500 a year ago—an increase of 27,000 head.

Various Atlantic-Seaboard slaughterers bought large numbers of lambs during the month, a total of 219 carloads, or 50,000 head, going to New York City, Brooklyn, Hoboken and Harrison, New Jersey. Interior packers purchased 46,000 head, which were shipped to Iowa and other middle-western points.

At the close of December, good fat lambs, coming in volume from Northern Colorado, were selling up to \$10.90, freight paid. Declines during the first week in January carried tops to \$10.35, while the best were selling at \$10.15 at the close. Since the first of February, choice lambs have sold up to \$10.50, freight paid. Ewes were selling at \$4 to \$4.75 at the close of the month, with plainer kinds down to \$3.

WOOL MARKET IN STRONG POSITION

BY J. E. P.

EARLY CONTRACTING OF WESTERN WOOL IS assured unless something unforeseen develops. Already trading is in progress in the Southwest, particularly Texas. Around Brady and San Angelo twelve-month wools are selling on a 30-cent clean basis, an occasional eight-month clip earning that money. Up to February 1, sales in Texas exceeded 2,000,000 pounds. Elsewhere in the West little has been done, except in California, where the better grade of northern wools has moved at 26 cents, a few small medium clips being taken at 30 cents or better. Late in January, old wools sold in Omaha at 24 to 26 cents, with an estimated shrinkage of 65 per cent.

Shearing is in progress in Arizona, with indications of early business. In the Northwest, growers are not anxious to do business, nor are dealers in a mood to show their hands, as they have nothing to gain by arousing enthusiasm.

Piece-goods markets are healthy, no anxiety being evinced except rising cost of raw material. Clothing dealers are running advertising warning of higher clothing cost, stocks on their shelves having been worked down to low volume. Most of them are anxious to clear out heavy goods, but are making no price concessions, as unsold winter clothing may be safely, if not profitably, carried over into the heavy-weight season next fall.

Foreign markets are strong everywhere, prices showing a steadily advancing tendency, 1 to 2 cents a pound being put on previous quotations late in January. England and Japan are operating freely in the Southern Hemisphere, American buyers showing a disposition to break into the circle.

New York reports a gradual advance in prices of woolen goods, mills lifting quotations on standard goods fortified by a heavy backlog of orders estimated at 45,000,000 to 52,000,000 linear yards of fabrics. New fall lines will be opened at mid-February with expectation of heavy orders for top and overcoatings. Manufacturers are beginning to feel the pinch of scarcity, and do not intend to be caught short, in which event they might be under the necessity of paying famine prices. In any event, growers will hold the big end of the stick, and it will not be a buyers' market.

River Plate advices are that current offerings are limited and quality defective. Stocks of standard wools, especially with merit, are scarce both at Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

Montana is asking 30 cents for the bulk of half-clips, dealers bidding 27 to 28 cents. At Boston, three-eighths territory wool is selling at 77 to 78 cents, clean; quarter-blood combing, at 72 to 73 cents; average quarters, 70 cents; and low quarters, 63 to 65 cents. Half-blood wools are in light supply at the seaboard, recent sales having been made at 82 to 83 cents, clean, although choice grades are not available under 85 cents. Top-makers expect to pay 85 to 90 cents for average wools by May or June.

The whole market, every grade, is in strong position, technically and statistically. Difficulty would be experienced in locating to exceed 30,000,000 pounds of domestic wool available at present—the smallest carryover since the war. A year ago, about 70 per cent of the visible supply was unsold. The advance started feebly last March and has persistently continued since, without interruption. Fine wool was worth approximately 55 cents per clean pound at Boston when the turn of the road was reached; the same type has advanced to 85 cents.

Consumption of grease wool in 1935 practically doubled that of 1934. While government orders were responsible for part of this increase, demand for that account did not exceed 35,000,000 pounds. Increased consumer demand was due to depleted wardrobes, improvement in economic conditions, and higher purchasing power. Millions of clothing wearers permitted their wardrobes to run down, went the limit on repairing, and were ultimately compelled to replace.

Shearing is completed in the Southern Hemisphere, and the first half of the selling season is down at the heel. Values are strong everywhere down that way, prices having advanced conspicuously since October 1, when the selling season began. Clearances are normal at the present time, Americans having purchased considerable wool. To meet the emergency created by shortage of domestic wools, importing will be heavy, which is heralded by receipts of foreign wool at Boston during the last half of 1935 totaling 35,000,000 pounds, or double the total recorded during the entire twelve months preceding this period.

BREEDERS' PAGE

BREED NOTES

AT A MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND HEREFORD Breeders' Association, held at Marfa, Texas, February 6, the following officers were elected: W. B. Mitchell, president; George Jones, vice-president; and Dr. A. J. Hoffman, secretary-treasurer. The registered trademark "Highland," it was decided at the meeting, would henceforth be applied as an identification mark for cattle belonging to members of the organization.

* * *

The grand champion fat steer at the recent Denver show was a Hereford weighing 1,145 pounds. It brought \$1.05 a pound. The grand champion carlot fat steers were of the Angus breed. They averaged 951 pounds, and sold for \$18.50 per cwt. The reserve champion carlot was made up of Herefords, and sold at \$16.50 per cwt. Grand champion carlot feeder steers were Hereford calves, averaging 451 pounds. They were sold to an Iowa buyer at \$16.75, freight paid.



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Denver, 1936

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ALBERT, NEW MEXICO

Headed for Wellington, New Zealand, and Sydney, Australia, two shipments of cattle were made from New York in the second week of January. The shipments consist of five Shorthorn females and twenty-eight Polled Shorthorn bulls and females, together with several Angus and Polled Hereford animals.

* * *

Participation of the American breeds at recent shows in Australia and England is related by our foreign correspondents in the current number under the "Foreign" column.

FEEDSTUFFS

COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL ON FEBRUARY 10 was quoted at \$22 a ton, f.o.b. Texas points. Hay prices at Omaha on February 3 were as follows: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$13 to \$14; No. 1, \$12 to \$12.50; standard leafy, \$11 to \$11.50; standard, \$10.50 to \$11; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$10; No. 3, \$7.50; sample, \$4 to \$6; upland prairie—No. 1, \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$8.50; sample, \$4 to \$6; midland prairie—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; sample, \$4 to \$6; mixed hay—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$8.

"I think a great deal of THE PRODUCER."—H. E. STOCKHAM, Delta, Colo.

THE PROGRESSIVE CATTLEMEN

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Quanah Cake Cubes

43% Protein Cottonseed Cake
They are SOFT. Toothless cows and weanling calves eat them as easily as big steers.

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Wire or Write SALES OFFICE at
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ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, December 15, 1935.

GOOD BEEF CATTLE CONTINUE TO BE SCARCE. Judging from the greatly increased quantities of milk that the Milk Marketing Board is now handling from the districts which have hitherto been regarded as the stronghold of store stock, many of the leading beef-producers have turned their attention to dairying. By so doing they have not forfeited their right to the beef subsidy, the low dressed weight qualifying percentage of which comes well within their scope.

Even at the Norwich, Birmingham, and Smithfield fat-stock shows there has been a wide gap between the quality of the prize-winners and that of the animals at the bottom of the lists, and this failing has been especially apparent at most of the minor events. Indeed, at one show in the west of England, noted in previous years for a small but selective display of good beef, the class with the biggest number of entries was that for in-milk dairy cows or heifers. In the two classes for "fat steers or heifers showing a calf's tooth," hitherto the two strongest classes at this particular event and usually filled by Herefords, there were only two entries.

One might point to the increased entries at Smithfield, Birmingham, Norwich, and Edinburgh and say that never before have such splendid Blacks paraded, and that the points of J. J. Cridlan's 1935 Aberdeen-Angus champion have eclipsed those of its predecessors. To do this and state that we are advancing in our beef production, as Walter Elliot, the Minister of Agriculture, would have the world believe, is only balking at the issue. The best of the fat cattle seen at the recent shows have all come from pedigree herds. In the past, the backbone of the British beef industry was the store feeder, but the competition offered by cow-beef, the lure of the Milk Marketing Scheme, with its guaranteed market and fixed price, and the easily obtained cattle subsidy, have made beef production beyond his reach. Most farmers are now agreed that only feeders with a big bank balance can continue to concentrate upon beef, while large numbers of small breeders, who were rapidly building up pedigree herds, cannot afford to maintain beef stock for which they may not find a market save at the low commercial values now ruling. Men with large, established pedigree herds, are not so much concerned with the commercial market at home as they are with export trade. The elimination of the small beef-producer is a retrograde step from which it will be difficult to recover, and it is feared that the milk scheme will cause the declension in the beef industry to continue.

In the meantime, the Standing Committee on Meat Production has urged the government to press forward as much as possible with the negotiations with the Dominions and foreign countries which are a necessary preliminary to the establishment of the levy and the subsidy plan in the case of meat. The committee also urges the extension of the national grade and the dead-weight scheme to as many markets as possible, whether for the sale of fat cattle of all classes, calves, sheep and lambs, or porkers. Another official move recommended by the committee is the formation of associations or groups of farmers, as has been already done in Yorkshire and Wales, so that these may appoint agents for the purpose of obtaining quota-

tions from wholesalers through the official graders' office and of subsequently arranging for the transport of the stock as they were sold. Another recommendation to which objections from certain quarters are likely to be made is for the government to obtain from the wholesale carcass butchers, who quote under the schemes, a guarantee of financial stability in respect to all transactions at the market, so that the bargains arranged through agents and the official graders can be legally enforced without loss to the farmers.

Three of the King's cups for the supreme cattle championship at the Smithfield Show are now the personal property of J. J. Cridlan, of Maisemore Park, Gloucester. Mr. Cridlan this year won the championship for the ninth time, and secured for good the second cup given by the King, having won the other outright in 1932. Mr. Cridlan won the King Edward VII cup outright in 1914. This has been a wonderful year for the Aberdeen-Angus breed which has provided champions at Norwich, Birmingham, and London, and also a carcass championship at Islington. This year's Smithfield Show champion sold for \$1,200.

The usual heavier supplies of beef cattle are now being handled for the Christmas trade, and the best grades are meeting a sharper demand at rising prices. Apart from prize-winning stock, a better trade is being realized at the special sales than at the corresponding sales last year, and at even the ordinary weekly markets the best quality are clearing at firm to dearer rates. Runts and cow-beeves, however, are still offered at nominal values. The average quotations for first- and second-quality cattle are now \$9 and \$7.60 per live cwt., respectively, as against \$8.50 and \$7 a month ago.

Fat sheep are being penned in good numbers, and while well-finished light and medium weights are in active request at firm to dearer rates, a somewhat easier tone prevails for heavy mutton and unfinished lots. First quality Down and cross-breeds are now averaging 22 cents a pound.

The markets are well supplied with fat hogs of good quality, baconers selling steadily, with porkers, except where supplies are in excess of demand, being up on recent quotations. First-quality bacon and pork hogs are averaging \$2.56 and \$3.10 per score, respectively.

Fat vealers are in good supply, with a tendency to crowd some markets. Veal is likely to be plentiful so long as the Milk Marketing Board continues in existence, and cheap veal may eventually assume a prominent position in the home-killed meat industry. First-quality vealers are now fetching 21 cents a pound.

Lighter offerings of store cattle are in dull but steady demand, values showing no change and ranging between \$35 and \$60 a head for Herefords. Values for store sheep are firm, supplies being light and the few on offer being required for folding on roots. Store hogs are attracting a good deal of attention, especially the younger lots for the 1936 bacon scheme contracts, and calves for rearing are in keen request.

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, January 15, 1936.

SOME LITTLE TIME AGO NORTHERN CATTLE-BREEDERS put up a proposition to the federal government that it should assist their industry by means of a cash subsidy of \$5,000,000, spread over three years. It was claimed that, owing to low prices paid for stores and fats, breeders were unable to maintain the standard of herds, and quality was deteriorating. The matter was in abeyance for months, but

lately the government has sent one of its leading veterinary officers north to investigate the position. He has reported to the department concerned, and is believed to favor a modified scheme of assistance; but, as is often the case with government affairs, a lag has occurred.

Cattlemen, however, are not submitting to the delay quietly, and have recently prepared a statement setting out grounds for the request for assistance. As this pictures the difficulties facing breeders in Australia, perhaps I may be excused for quoting rather full extracts for the information of American readers.

During the war and up to 1922, it says, beef values were on a reasonably high level. Then a slump occurred and rates dropped, with the immediate result of very heavy losses and in some cases ruin to fatteners who had purchased stores on the high basis, and to breeders who had invested in land when prices were up. Since that period values have remained low, and in addition breeding herds have been depleted by droughts.

The breeding herds, it is pointed out, are the foundation of the beef industry. The fatterer, once values are established at a low level and making allowance for uncertainties of seasonal conditions and export values, purchases young stock on a basis to leave a profit on costs of fattening. The breeder, however, is unable to control prices or conditions so as to assure a margin of profit, with the result that of recent years there has been a progressive deterioration in quality through sheer inability to finance the purchase of good bulls.

The incidence of rainfall in the north results in a flush of fat cattle from, say, January to August of each year. Probably 80 to 90 per cent of the fats in the north must be marketed during that period, causing a surplus over requirements for Australian consumption, which constitutes the export surplus. It is then that the price paid for the export surplus, viz., overseas parity less cost of transport, determines the amount offered by the local trade. This means, in effect, that the beef-producer, whose costs of production are governed by Australian conditions and high wages fixed by the arbitration court, supplies the protected Australian consumer with beef at a price based on free world parity less cost of transport.

The statement goes on to say that the establishment of the chilled-beef export trade had comparatively little effect on values during the past export season. The purchase price of fat bullocks delivered at packing-plants in Queensland ranged from \$4.10 per hundred pounds in the north to \$5.50 in the south for best steers, and from \$3.35 to \$4.80 per hundred for seconds. Still, the substitution of chilled for frozen beef in the demand from overseas markets makes it imperative for the producer to reorganize his methods. The outstanding requirements in that respect are the introduction of high-quality bulls into breeding herds and improved methods of handling stock. The latter involves fencing-in of smaller paddocks and the provision of better watering facilities.

To overcome the disability of seasonal flushes and scarcities in supplies, the statement says that inducement must be offered to render profitable the fattening and topping-off of cattle for export on coastal lands suited to special and cultivated pastures that will carry fats during the second portion of the year, i.e., August to December. It suggests that the inducement should be offered through a system of equalization, enabling higher values to be paid for cattle made available for export in the off-season sufficient to compensate for the extra cost of holding and fattening.

Cattle-growers ask that the proposed subsidy shall be distributed in the form of a bounty, say, of 1 cent a pound, on export beef. The requisite conditions are that the payment shall be made in such a manner as to assure that the whole

benefit shall go to the producer. This, they state, should be possible to insure by an arrangement with the exporters whereby the price fixed for export supplies at the commencement of each season, subject to market variations, would be increased by the amount of the bounty available. It is believed that the keen competition in the purchase of store cattle by fatteners, which, owing to shortage of supplies as a result of drought losses, is certain to persist for several years, will assure that the increased value will pass back to the breeding herds.

Breeders of Polled Shorthorns in Australia have formed a breed society and decided to publish a herd book separate from that of the Shorthorn Society of Australia. Volume 1 will close on June 30, 1936, and is expected to contain registrations of approximately fifty bulls and 320 cows, mostly, if not all, being imported from the United States, or of their progeny. In compliance with the request of the society, the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales has agreed to include in its schedule for the 1936 Easter Show the following classes for Polled Shorthorns: Bull, two years old and over—first prize, \$22.50; second prize, \$10.50; third prize, \$7.50. Bull, under two years—first prize, \$15; second prize, \$8; third prize, \$5. There will be two similar classes for cows or heifers, and champion and reserve awards will be made. Exhibits will be restricted to those registered with the Polled Shorthorn Society of Australia, or a recognized society for Polled Shorthorns.

It may be added in the above connection that a few Polled Shorthorns and Polled Herefords were exhibited at the last Sydney Easter Show and Polled Herefords at the Queensland National Show in August. All the Polled Shorthorn entries at Sydney were American importations, while the principal prize-winners in the Polled Hereford section were by imported bulls. The latter also applies to the Queensland National.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Brazilian Cotton Industry

The cotton-spinning and weaving industry of Brazil as of January 1, 1935, comprised 338 mills with a total of 2,532,342 spindles and 81,158 looms.

American Horses in Malay

During 1934 there were imported into Malay thirty-eight American horses, and in 1935, thirteen. They have been used for the most part as polo ponies.

New Zealand Has Smaller Wool Crop

Wool production in New Zealand for 1935-36 is estimated at 272,000,000 pounds. This figure compares with a revised estimate of 276,000,000 pounds for 1934-35.

Margarine Production in Russia Increasing

Although the production of margarine in Russia was begun only in 1930, there are now in operation about ten factories for the manufacture of that commodity.

South African Wool Crop

The South African wool-clip estimate for 1935-36 has been placed at 232,000,000 pounds, or approximately 700,000 bales, compared with 210,000,000 pounds, or 660,000 bales, last season.

Mongols Develop New Cow Species

A cross between the native yak of Mongolia and the western milk cow has resulted in a new species of cow called *kchainaks*, which are said to be larger than either of their parent strains and give more and richer milk than domestic cows. Bulls of the species are reported to be much larger and very strong.

Alberta's Antelope Declared Open Game

Herds of antelope in Alberta, Canada, have recently increased to the point of menacing feed and pasture for cattle. The animals have now been declared open game, after having been protected against the hunter for fifteen years.

Argentine Shoe Industry

There are 490 establishments in Argentina engaged in production of footwear. The output in 1934 was placed at 14,058,400 pairs of leather shoes and 40,610,400 pairs of *economicos*—the cheaper kinds of footwear with rope, cardboard, or similar soles.

Live Stock in Canada

The June live-stock census in Canada, with corresponding figures for June, 1934, given within the parentheses, show the following numbers: Cattle, 8,820,600 (8,951,900); sheep, 3,339,100 (3,421,100); swine, 3,549,200 (3,654,000); horses, 2,931,337 (2,933,492).

Meatless Days in Italy

The first of Italy's belt-tightening measures in resistance to economic sanctions called for the closing on Tuesdays of butcher shops for a six-month period. On Wednesdays the shops are open, but on that day also no beef, pork, mutton, or lamb may be sold.

Electrical Threshing Extensive in U. S. S. R.

With harvest in a country recently primitive already 35 to 40 per cent mechanized in many districts, the Soviet Union has this year electrified its threshing operations to a considerable extent. The harvest from 3,750,000 acres is expected to be threshed electrically this year.

World Cattle Numbers

The number of cattle in the principal beef-producing countries—with the exception of India and China, which, although having large herds, are not producers of meat—attained 300,000,000 head in 1933, a figure slightly less than in 1930, but 10 per cent more than in 1913.

Brazil Animal-Product Exports Increase

A 34 per cent increase in animal and animal-product exports from Brazil is reported for the first nine months of 1935, as compared with the similar period of 1934—119,983 metric tons in 1934; 160,768 metric tons in 1935. On the basis of value, the increase amounted to 50 per cent.

Canada's Buffalo Herds

Recent figures show that buffaloes in the Elk Island National Park and Buffalo National Park in Canada number 6,889, which figure does not include the 1935 calf crop of approximately 1,200. In order that their ranges may not become overgrazed, 1,500 of the animals are being slaughtered.

SCHOOL FOR MEAT-DEALERS

RETAIL MEAT-DEALERS OF OKLAHOMA, KANSAS, Nebraska, and Minnesota are preparing to "go to college." Announcement has recently been made that retailers' short courses are scheduled in these states for the immediate future.

The short courses are under the direction of the animal husbandry departments of the state colleges and universities with the co-operation of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Assisting in the plans and programs are the Institute of American Meat Packers, the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers, and state retailer associations.

The courses are designed primarily to assist the dealer in more effectively merchandising the finished product of the live-stock and meat industry. Problems affecting the sale of meat; retailer credit problems; modern sales methods for retail merchants; place of meat in reducing-diets; food value of meat; and other subjects make up the curriculum.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

BOOKLET ON ARGENTINE PACT

Facts concerning the proposed Argentine convention and arguments against its ratification are contained in a pamphlet recently issued by the American National Live Stock Association. The booklet, entitled, "Keep Out Foot-and-Mouth Disease," points out the great danger of any tampering with our present embargo against imports from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists, explains the nature of foot-and-mouth disease, throws new light on conditions in and around Patagonia, and generally controverts charges of proponents of the agreement that the present embargo is being used as an economical barrier and that Argentina is being discriminated against.

A copy may be had by addressing the American National Live Stock Association, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.

WILD-LIFE MEETING

Wild-life experts of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, who are engaged in the study of problems affecting the well-being of the mammals, birds, and other wild life of the national parks and monuments on February 3-7 met in Washington, D. C., for the first general headquarter's assembly in the history of that service.

Two thousand were gathered there to discuss various problems of wild-life management and protection, in order to arrive at a clarification of policies concerning these subjects. The results of their studies and discussions are expected to assist in furnishing a basis for the promulgation of definite wild-life policies for future guidance.

A GRASS OF MANY QUALITIES

Crested wheatgrass, introduced into this country from the dry plains of Russia and Siberia by the Department of Agriculture, is meeting the need of farmers in the northern Great Plains for a forage crop that will re-grass arid land of low value.

This hardy grass comes on in the spring two to four weeks earlier than native grass and holds on in the fall for four to six weeks longer when conditions

are favorable. It has unusual ability to combat weeds, withstands drought well, resists rust, makes hay of high quality, permits of seeding with an ordinary grain drill, and is an excellent grass to use in rotations, especially as a sod crop for flax.

At the Judith Basin experiment station in Montana, it was found that cattle pastured more days and made greater gains on fewer acres of crested wheatgrass than of brome or native grass.

LAKE MEAD

The world's largest artificial lake—that formed by construction of Boulder Dam on the Colorado River—recently officially was named "Lake Mead," honoring the late Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation, who supervised the construction of the dam and first envisioned the lake as a new playground dedicated to the benefit of the people of the nation.

Lake Mead began forming February 1, 1935, when the gates of the diversion tunnels at Boulder Dam were closed. It caught the spring flood on the Colorado River last year, and today contains approximately 4,000,000 acre-feet of water, being more than eighty-two miles long.

At capacity, Lake Mead will reach 115 miles up the Colorado River, through Boulder Canyon, Virgin Canyon, Iceberg and Travertine Canyons, and into the lower end of Grand Canyon. It will broaden to a maximum distance of forty miles. It then will contain 30,500,000 acre-feet of water, or about 80,000 gallons for every person in the United States, and will cover 146,500 acres or 229 square miles.

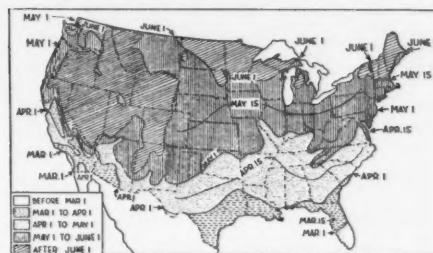
HOG PRODUCTION EXPANDING

Increase in hog slaughter next summer and the following winter is indicated by the latest pig-crop report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The fall pig crop of 1935 was 31 per cent larger than in 1934, and a 24 per cent increase in the number of sows to farrow next spring is reported, indicating that the downtrend in hog production has been checked and that increasing slaughter supplies of hogs are likely during the next twelve months at least.

GARDEN PLANTING GUIDE

The below Department of Agriculture map divides the country into planting zones, showing where the chances of damage from frost is only one to ten.



A date about two weeks earlier is used by those who want earliest crops; the 10 per cent date by those who want to be safer.

The Blind See.—"Pity the pore blind, mister."

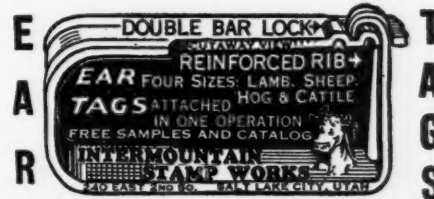
"Go on! You're no more blind than I am."

"No, mister, it's me pal dat's blind. But he's too proud ter beg, so I has ter do it while he stand at de corner an' keeps an eye out fer de cops."—*Boston Transcript.*

Sexology.—He—"Know how to tell a he-bird from a she-bird?"

Him—"Nope. Give up."

He—"Pull its tail. If he chirps, it's a he-bird. If she chirps, it's a she-bird."



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REPORTS BY STOCKMEN

California

It has been a good winter so far—quite a bit of moisture and a good pack of snow on the mountains. It is still cloudy and storming a little every day, which is not very good for feed, as the ground gets muddy. Most of the beef is gone now. They have been getting 7 cents this month.—JOHN MCGARVA, Likely, January 9.

Colorado

We are having a little touch of winter, but not a bad one. The cattle are wintering well, and we are on the downhill side of the winter.—CHARLES E. COLLINS, Kit Carson, January 28.

New Mexico

Moisture here is very good. Cattle are wintering well. There is not much trading at present. All the Black Range has 12 to 14 inches of snow. The outlook is good for spring.—ROSS M. ATKINS, Hot Springs, January 26.

North Dakota

Cattle are in fair condition in the western part of the state.—GEORGE GERBIG, Ranger, January 25.

Oregon

We are having a great deal of falling weather in this locality, and conditions look much better for creeks and springs to start in the spring. Everyone seems to have his stock in and plenty of feed.—ORRIN C. MILLS, Paulina, January 15.

Stock conditions here are the best in years. Plenty of rain and snow warrants a good crop of hay and good range conditions.—JOHN L. LYON, Lakeview, February 5.

South Dakota

This part of South Dakota has lots of feed this year. Cattle are in fine shape. We have had no winter—just enough snow in the pastures to soften up the grass. There has been no hay feed until the present.—RAY M. IVES, New Underwood, January 17.

Texas

I cannot complain about conditions here—very mild winter so far, business fairly good, and stock wintering in fine shape.—W. L. FOSTER, Sterling City, January 17.

Winter so far has been mild. We have had from a half inch to an inch of moisture the past thirty days. Ranges are still fair, and cattle in good shape. A high-percentage calf crop is expected. Very few cattle are for sale at this time. Quite a sprinkling of short-age calves are being held for short yearlings. Some will be sold in the spring, while others will be held until fall. Calves held over are being caked on grass.—DR. A. J. HOFFMAN, Secretary, Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, Marfa, February 6.

Wyoming

The snow in this immediate vicinity is quite bad, and some stock needs feed, but the majority of the stock is receiving attention and doing well. We have the most snow that we have had since 1920.—H. J. CHASSELL, Gillette, January 18.

ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND STOCK CONDITIONS

Cattle, sheep, and ranges in the western states were in average condition on February 1, 1936, according to the monthly report of the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates. Ranges were 77 per cent of normal, compared with 79 a month ago, 59 on February 1, 1935, and 78.9 for the ten-year average. Despite severe weather during January, condition of cattle declined only slightly—largely a reflection of the good condition in which animals entered the winter and the ample feed supplies in most of the western range sections. Sheep and lambs generally are reported to be in good condition. A severe storm with extremely low temperatures swept much of the range territory on February 6 and 7.

Detail by states follows:

Arizona.—Weather open and mild; moisture adequate; feed and water

ample; early lambs marketed liberally; good lamb crop expected.

California.—Ranges improved during January in north, declined in south; precipitation in January normal in north half, deficient in south; hay and roughage adequate; cattle and sheep in average condition.

Colorado.—Most ranges open during January; hay ample except in southeast; surplus hay available in mountain and irrigated areas; cattle and sheep in good condition; death losses light.

Idaho.—Heavy snowfall during January prevented use of range feed, but prospects improved for irrigation water—a matter of concern the first of year; January feeding requirements heavy, but ample supply remains; cold weather resulted in some losses of early lambs, although not great.

Kansas (western).—Ranges continue in poor condition; hay and rough feed limited; grain feeds scarce and being shipped in; cattle wintered well; losses light.

Montana.—Thick snow-covering in east and west portions necessitated heavy

feeding during January; less snow in middle portion, permitting use of range; hay and rough feed adequate except in south-central and southeastern areas; stock wintered well.

Nebraska (western).—Winter ranges and cattle in good condition; surplus hay and feed available at reasonable prices; outlook good; stockmen optimistic.

Nevada.—Weather favorable; feed requirements light; stock in good condition; good calf and lamb crops expected.

New Mexico.—Conditions of cattle, sheep, and ranges above average; hay, feed, and water ample; prospects for spring grass exceptionally good; good calf crop anticipated.

North Dakota.—January weather severe; ranges snow-covered, but precipitation for month below normal; range feed limited; most stock being yard-fed; feed supplies sufficient.

Oklahoma.—Native grass short and little wheat-pasture available; hay sufficient; some feed grains being shipped in; cattle wintered well despite inclement January weather.

Oregon.—January rains heavy and temperatures sufficiently mild to start grass; outlook for spring range feed promising in desert areas; high ranges carry heavy snow-covering; stock wintering well; feed ample.

South Dakota (western).—Ranges snow-covered and furnish little feed; January precipitation about normal; feed ample, but being used liberally; calf- and lamb-crop prospects good.

Texas.—Winter ranges declined more than average as result of freezing Janu-

CENSUS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1935, AND COUNT ON APRIL 1, 1930

State	All Cattle		Cows and Heifers		Sheep and Lambs		Hogs and Pigs	
	1935	1930*	1935	1930	1935	1930	1935	1930
Alabama	1,125,208	681,298	585,543	400,984	48,128	69,156	888,602	831,171
Arizona	770,711	632,601	397,321	318,077	930,820	1,339,905	22,502	23,782
Arkansas	1,187,002	680,985	618,247	372,483	65,106	85,800	886,776	776,208
California	2,131,799	1,813,319	1,089,900	900,757	2,724,242	4,083,728	489,291	647,791
Colorado	1,589,509	1,281,276	761,602	603,205	2,448,636	2,505,159	248,770	462,301
Connecticut	173,269	147,444	122,915	95,196	6,367	13,466	25,243	27,516
Delaware	51,090	46,875	36,036	30,777	2,609	5,326	26,493	30,341
Florida	713,001	372,942	376,522	207,271	39,942	47,275	447,135	567,115
Georgia	1,100,138	670,062	567,157	388,152	33,580	49,690	1,272,763	1,357,400
Idaho	784,272	541,547	374,526	248,675	2,208,697	3,301,754	196,330	267,614
Illinois	2,629,865	1,964,274	1,428,558	1,048,229	850,896	944,597	3,218,134	4,651,772
Indiana	1,604,368	1,202,819	910,951	687,055	832,829	1,118,184	2,540,071	3,347,256
Iowa	4,569,590	3,516,914	2,030,527	1,561,104	1,782,906	1,557,517	5,804,474	10,055,591
Kansas	3,386,079	2,741,929	1,559,526	1,155,888	714,134	574,336	1,119,100	2,473,084
Kentucky	1,211,508	908,253	676,782	510,212	1,079,655	1,597,223	1,034,991	1,034,593
Louisiana	1,081,697	618,503	579,385	355,433	221,959	171,432	776,557	759,412
Maine	245,010	224,121	158,444	129,906	58,776	90,782	44,340	45,712
Maryland	307,432	270,047	197,792	168,632	93,518	194,152	159,087	205,361
Massachusetts	188,686	184,369	137,884	121,247	8,216	12,716	90,238	104,768
Michigan	1,517,639	1,287,525	934,739	737,706	1,100,218	1,416,243	488,966	596,557
Minnesota	3,179,332	2,652,227	1,869,146	1,500,676	1,062,540	927,098	1,615,338	3,315,466
Mississippi	1,400,657	841,067	751,976	498,078	71,568	110,056	927,481	732,781
Missouri	2,531,223	2,310,556	1,419,605	1,171,632	1,241,902	1,750,089	2,296,282	3,861,240
Montana	1,530,015	1,147,318	725,139	511,226	3,822,875	4,027,457	98,370	210,036
Nebraska	3,231,598	2,655,311	1,521,202	1,157,200	689,376	496,411	1,905,111	4,679,161
Nevada	342,213	286,137	158,344	122,473	834,091	1,201,837	17,149	22,746
New Hampshire	130,373	121,102	87,235	70,187	13,077	21,254	14,468	15,576
New Jersey	177,879	152,187	133,206	106,644	7,235	11,744	150,812	128,466
New Mexico	1,070,738	923,244	581,563	504,338	1,801,150	2,291,426	58,414	65,592
New York	1,919,163	1,842,500	1,325,960	1,185,769	385,579	618,075	189,871	220,826
North Carolina	684,266	467,012	404,275	279,522	77,044	146,285	947,143	838,994
North Dakota	1,218,581	1,205,721	709,049	579,276	740,025	856,621	218,319	628,070
Ohio	1,951,234	1,495,193	1,127,423	857,719	2,395,882	2,536,664	2,050,299	2,777,938
Oklahoma	2,632,388	1,759,282	1,311,183	856,020	308,558	221,616	780,925	1,051,190
Oregon	929,452	702,600	487,442	352,637	2,209,898	3,319,271	168,580	224,539
Pennsylvania	1,460,138	1,287,616	920,298	776,920	19,442	2,276	543,895	657,281
Rhode Island	27,905	27,957	21,762	19,442	2,276	3,060	5,965	4,811
South Carolina	385,179	235,163	214,532	147,264	12,406	18,841	509,304	471,104
South Dakota	1,632,274	1,647,390	848,436	765,312	1,319,537	1,150,346	543,900	2,637,188
Tennessee	1,233,477	908,406	677,503	464,534	411,488	625,888	1,001,883	1,002,319
Texas	7,222,369	5,583,471	3,834,464	2,868,546	7,026,543	7,021,334	1,384,134	1,561,461
Utah	411,107	393,848	211,708	192,922	2,452,196	2,922,457	47,151	67,196
Vermont	409,527	405,280	291,872	256,302	29,394	51,175	22,737	29,432
Virginia	870,294	725,017	467,118	364,173	437,625	828,526	543,233	699,867
Washington	740,812	534,448	412,903	287,719	747,901	1,142,603	157,892	186,275
West Virginia	611,402	488,339	299,170	211,868	606,190	896,661	188,143	221,681
Wisconsin	3,116,466	2,914,657	2,156,584	1,838,088	442,596	584,608	998,091	1,611,993
Wyoming	858,006	754,290	418,464	347,907	3,475,723	3,417,460	45,998	97,993
Dist. of Columbia	853	780	505	456	16	6	1,811	1,353
Total	68,284,409	54,250,300	36,930,584	28,335,949	37,212,967	56,287,920

*Does not include animals under three months of age.

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feed for neighbors.

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FREE BOOKS
That tell how, when and why
to grind feed. Contain 101
feeding formulas and hints for
balancing rations and making
the most money from crops.

STOVER MFG & ENGINE CO., Freeport, Ill., Dept. R-2

any temperatures; wheat fields furnishing some feed in plains area; cold January weather caused shrinkage, but most herds in good flesh; financial conditions good; sheep wintering well; about third of prospective wool-clip contracted around 30 cents.

Utah.—Ranges mostly snow-covered, resulting in heavy pasturing near water holes; cattle and sheep in above-average condition; water limited in east and south.

Washington.—Frequent rains during January improved lower ranges; higher ranges heavily covered with snow; hay in surplus, and carryover will be large; grain plentiful; condition of live stock fair; losses light.

Wyoming.—Hay, feed, and water adequate; unusually heavy snowfall in northwest insures ample irrigation and stock water; stock wintering well; losses light.

LAMBS ON FEED JANUARY 1

Lambs, including sheep, on feed for market on January 1, 1936, in the principal feeding states were estimated at 5,260,000—5.4 per cent less than the number on feed on January 1, 1935—according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. On January 1, 1935, the number was 5,561,000; 1934, 5,214,000; 1932, 6,160,000—the largest on record.

The decrease took place in the western Corn Belt. In the Scottsbluff section of Nebraska and in Wyoming, lambs on feed this year were in greater number than on January 1 last year.

The estimated number on feed on January 1, 1936, in the western states, including North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas, was 2,304,000 head, compared with 2,249,000 a year earlier. In Colorado there were 1,255,000 head this year, compared with 1,085,000 a year ago and 1,250,000 two years ago. Of the other thirteen states in this group, seven reported decreases, and six increases.

Shipments of feeder lambs and sheep into the Corn Belt, inspected at stockyards markets, for the six months July

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to December, 1935, totaled 200,000 head less than for the corresponding period in 1934—a decrease of about 13 per cent.

CATTLE ON FEED JANUARY 1

The number of cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt states on January 1, 1936, was 41 per cent larger than the very small number a year earlier, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Despite the sharp increase, the number was materially below the average for January 1 for the years 1930 to 1934—probably 25 or 30 per cent.

If indicated marketing plans are carried out, the number of grain-finished cattle marketed during the first four months of 1936 will be substantially larger than in 1935, the bureau believes.

Stocker and feeder cattle inspected through stockyards markets shipped into the Corn Belt states during the last six months of 1935 were about 17 per cent greater in number than in the 1934 period, but little different from the five-year average 1930-34.

The below table shows an estimate of cattle on feed on January 1, 1936, in terms of percentages of the January 1, 1935, figure:

	Per cent
Ohio	120
Indiana	133
Illinois	125
Michigan	130
Wisconsin	143
Minnesota	120
Iowa	125
Missouri	160
South Dakota	220
Nebraska	195
Kansas	150

The number of cattle on feed in the eleven western states and Texas and Oklahoma on January 1, 1936, was estimated as 78 per cent larger than on January 1, 1935, and nearly one-third larger than the average number for the five years 1930-34.

Figures for the western states follow (three ciphers omitted):

	Preliminary 1936	Revised 1935
Montana	24	20
Wyoming	13	6
Colorado	109	82
New Mexico	8	1
Utah	16	10
Nevada	25	12
Idaho	27	19
Washington	14	6
Oregon	24	7
California	100	71
Arizona	107	44
Oklahoma	467	278
Texas	100	40
	16	10

WORLD WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Reduction in the world supply of wheat between now and July 1 is in prospect, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The surplus of

wheat available for export and carryover in Canada, Australia, and Argentina, it is reported, was about 140,000,000 bushels less this January 1 than last.

With only a small surplus in Argentina and Australia, Canada has an opportunity to reduce her surplus stock to about normal size. Stocks in the United States are about unchanged from a year ago.

POTATO SITUATION IMPROVED

Prospects for an early potato crop of about 35,000,000 bushels, compared with 38,094,000 bushels in 1935, and 42,799,000 bushels in 1934, are reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The supply of old potatoes is much less than a year ago, and the acreage of new potatoes in southern states may be the smallest since 1933, the report states. Growers in late-producing states have not reported their planting intentions, but acreage reduction there is likely in view of low prices the past two seasons.

BUSHEL MEASURE INFLATED

A change by the Commodity Credit Corporation in the method of measuring corn will cut, it is estimated, about 5 cents from the loan value of corn on the cob, figured on a quantity basis. High-moisture-content corn was given as the reason for expanding the bushel basket.

No change was made in the corn loan value of 45 cents a bushel.

Twin Puns.—The president of the local gas company was making a stirring address.

"Think of the good the gas company has done," he cried. "If I were permitted a pun I should say, 'Honor the Light Brigade'."

And a customer immediately shouted, "Oh, what a charge they made!"—Christian Advocate.

Not Even Sick.—Strolling through a field with his sweetheart he spied a bull rushing toward them. Quick as a flash he beat a hasty retreat.

"Why, Paddy, you were afraid," she said when they reached safety, "and you said you would face death for me."

"I know I said that," Paddy replied, "but that bull wasn't dead."

The Arithmetician Solves It.—The sergeant was taking the recruits' squad.

"For the last time," he bawled out, "what is a fortification?"

The recruits stood fast to a man. Striding up to the most intelligent-looking of the lot, N. C. O. repeated his question.

"Two twentifications, sir!" came the swift reply.—Tit-Bits (London.)